

# GOING SOLAR? *What to Consider & to Expect*



*Jim Hilger • abc Solar Power*

## Here are the first steps towards Going Solar:

**1. The abc Solar Power USA** website is a good place to start your information-gathering journey to going solar. You will find info and links to info that will be helpful when completing a **Going Solar Checklist**. When you are ready to talk to an expert, simply click onto the website with your questions and concerns.

**2. Request a Solar Saving Assessment** specific to your home or business. Our design experts are the best at what they do and will be able to show you the potential of going solar.

**3. Design and Placement of your Solar System:** Our experts will help you figure out how many solar panels you will need based on the electricity you use, the size of your home, and what your goals are concerning going solar. We'll calculate maximum sun exposure, energy output, and where to install your solar panels and when we're done, we will create a digital mockup of your home with solar, so you can see the future of going solar with your property.

**4. Engineering:** All solar installs are reviewed and certified by professional solar engineers. Once we have the approval, we can move towards permitting.

**5. Permitting:** Permitting is necessary, and while we are painstaking in our efforts to seamlessly design and install our solar projects, sometimes permitting

issues delay progress. It can take anywhere from a week to several weeks and sometimes months before we are through the permitting process.

**6. Installation:** You made it, congratulations! Your new solar system is now at the installation stage. Most residential solar systems take 2–4 days. Typically, you will see a journeyman electrician and 2–3 crew members.

**7. Final Inspection and Approval:** We are now ready to power up your new solar array. All we need is for the utility company that you are connected to, to come out and inspect the installation and approve operation.

**Congratulations:** You now own your power and are going solar! In your climate, how much solar power can you expect to produce? Your position to the sun will play a role in solar production. With technological advancement, solar production has greatly expanded in cooler, less sun-rich climates such as ours here in Montana and Wyoming. Click onto abc Solar Power USA today for a **Climate Guide to Going Solar**.

Since your property's position to the sun is key, many owners are choosing between roof-mount solar arrays and ground-mount systems. Our technicians will help you determine the best placement and orientation of your solar array.

**Consumption**—How much energy do you use each day? Your consumption, or energy load, will dictate how many panels you'll need to offset that consumption.

Wattage of the panels is important to consider also. Today's advanced designs can produce as much as 500 watts per panel. Here is a guide to help you figure out your consumption:

- A)** What is the square footage of your property?
- B)** How many people are living in your home?
- C)** What type of appliances do you use, and how many do you have?
- D)** What is your energy consumption behavior? Are you attentive to turning lights off when you leave a room? Do you watch much TV? How many laundry loads do you do? Are you heating and cooling your home with electricity? Will you be powering an electric car?

Are you thinking about a DIY installation? How can abc Solar Power USA help? You can easily schedule a virtual, online consultation at: [abcSolarPowerUSA.com](http://abcSolarPowerUSA.com). As always, thanks for your interest in our climate, and in Going Solar! ■

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