

CONSIDERING LEASING SOLAR PANELS?

Top 4 Topics to Discuss



1. CONTRACT

- How long is the contract?
- How do I pay (draft, check, credit card, etc.)
- What if I break the contract, stop paying or I pass away, what happens?
- What happens if I sell my home? Does the contract end? If not, who pays?
(NOTE: You should consider getting a lawyer to review the contract BEFORE signing.)

2. COSTS

- Who pays for work permits with the county and/or city? How much?
- *Please be aware Southern Rivers Energy does not lease or sell solar panels/systems.*
- Who pays SRE for the meter application fee of \$50?
- Who pays for installing disconnect switches and other required equipment?
- What are my monthly payments? Is it a fixed amount or does it change? Does it increase?
- What will my monthly payments be 5 years from now? 10 years from now? 20 years from now?
- Will my property taxes go up because of the solar panels?
- Will my home insurance go up?
- If I have to replace my roof (for old age or hail damage), who pays to remove and then replace the solar panels?
- How much will I continue to pay SRE every month? Is that a set amount or does it change?
- What happens when the sun does not shine as much in the winter or during rainy periods? Does my cost increase for the lease or for payments to SRE?
- If I break the contract, explain penalties that I will pay. Will a lien be placed on my home?

3. OPERATION

- Will holes be drilled in my roof? If so, what happens if my roof starts leaking? Who will I call?
- How will I know if the panels are working or how much energy is being generated?
- If the solar panel breaks, who repairs it? How quickly? What do I have to pay? Who will I call?
- If there is an SRE power outage, will the solar panels still power my home?
- Do the solar panels have a warranty? Does the warranty cover my roof, too?
- Is the solar power generated during the day stored for night usage? What happens at night?
- Who is responsible for keeping the solar panels clean?

4. SOLAR LEASING COMPANY

- How long has your company been doing business in middle Georgia?
- Where are other nearby locations I can visit that have your solar panels installed?
- Are you licensed to do business in Georgia? Are your installers licensed professionals?
- If I have problems, who do I call? Where are they located? What is the average response time?

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Things Our Members Should Know



BEFORE INSTALLATION:

- By law, you or the solar company must give SRE 30 days advanced notice
- Be certain to comply with local ordinances & permits, as well as homeowner association rules and SRE's Service Rules and Regulations
- Complete and submit to SRE an "Application for Operation of Distributed Generation" found in the Distributed Generation Guidelines Manual on the Solar and Other Distributed Generation page on southernriversenergy.com. For homes, the solar panels cannot exceed 10 kW
- Following approval of Application
 - execute "Net Metering & Interconnection Agreement" with SRE
 - submit application fee of \$50
 - execute "Recordable Notice of Agreement" for filing at county courthouse

BEFORE PANELS ARE CONNECTED, SRE WILL:

- Install a new metering package to accommodate "net metering" for the solar panels
- Confirm that a disconnection switch has been installed for the safety of linemen during outages, as well as protection for the solar system, the electric system and anyone working on the solar panels

AFTER PANELS ARE OPERATIONAL:

- The solar energy generated by the panels will be "net metered" to offset the energy used in your home.
- Any excess energy generated will be compensated at the present avoided energy cost
- In the event of a power outage on the electric system, the solar panels will be disconnected for the sake of safety and will not be producing energy for the home or putting energy back onto the grid.

IF SOLAR PANELS ARE NOT RIGHT FOR YOU, CONSIDER:

- Asking SRE for a home energy audit to look for ways to reduce electric use
- If you have a heat pump or central heat and air, install a "smart thermostat" which is one of the best ways to help reduce electric bills
- Invest in more insulation in your attic or crawl space
- Use "LED" bulbs for your lighting

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