## Are solar batteries cost effective



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When you consider the total ownership cost of solar panels – materials, installation, financing, and maintenance – they are now a cheaper electricity source than fossil fuels. However, since sunlight is not always available, solar panels cannot deliver power continuously. To use energy from the sun at night and on cloudy days, you need a solar battery.

Solar panels coupled with Sonnencore battery for home energy storage via Sonnen USA

There are many types of energy storage systems, but batteries have many features that make them an ideal complement for solar panels. They are available in many sizes, ranging from compact home batteries to utility-scale systems that can power many buildings at once.

However, battery prices have been decreasing during the last few years, and they will become even more affordable in the near future. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has forecast that batteries could become over 66% cheaper by 2030.

Solar power systems reach their peak productivity in the hours around noon since they are getting maximum sunshine. However, homes are often empty at this time of the day, since a large part of the population is working or attending schools and universities.

Even now that many people are working from home or taking online classes, homes normally have their highest energy consumption in the evening. As a result, residential solar systems tend to have plenty of surplus production around noon.

You can export your extra solar energy to the grid, and a credit will be subtracted from your next power bill – this concept is called net metering. However, the energy price you"re paid is often lower than the price you"re charged, and there are some electric companies that don"t offer net metering.

If your electricity provider charges time-of-use rates, you can configure your solar battery to provide energy when the highest kWh prices are being applied. This will maximize savings, increasing your return on investment.

In other words, a battery system can increase the savings achieved by solar panels – you can use their electricity when it's more valuable. This is not possible with solar panels alone: if you don't use their energy output immediately, it gets exported to the power grid and you might not get full credit.

There are many battery technologies, but two types are the most commonly used in solar power applications: lithium-ion and lead-acid batteries. Like in any engineering decision, each type has strengths and limitations,

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which means they are suited for different purposes.

Lithium-ion batteries have been used in cellphones and laptops for decades, but they have now evolved to a point where they can power homes and businesses. As you might guess from their name, these batteries use lithium ions to store energy:

The battery absorbs and releases charge with this back-and-forth movement of lithium ions. Outside of the battery, electric power is carried by electrons – the lithium ions only move internally between the anode and cathode, without leaving the battery.

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