

So, you're thinking of installing solar?

David Stevenson, Mole Energy



You're not alone! Last month I wrote about the record number of requests we've received from homeowners and businesses seeking to install solar. And this level of demand is showing no signs of slowing down.

In response, we're working hard to expand our team with a focussed recruitment and training plan. Please bear with us. It takes time to become an expert in solar, especially when we are determined to maintain our standards.

We're making progress. If you're a customer waiting to speak to our team, we will be in touch as soon as we can. In the meantime, I've collated some of your most popular questions below, to help you decide if solar is right for you:

Do I need a south facing roof?

Not necessarily. While south facing panels offer the best performance, panels facing east and west come a close second - generating only 15% less energy. We can also install panels on outbuilding roofs and on the ground.

Do I need bright sunlight to generate power?

No! Solar technology reacts to daylight, not sunlight.

Do I need planning consent?

Roof-mounted solar installations count as 'permitted developments' and don't need planning consent unless your home is listed. Ground-mounted systems do require planning permission.

Our team will guide you through every step of the process and we'll also 'self-certify' your new system with your local building control and District Network Operator (DNO). These documents are important, so we handle all the administration for you.

How long will my installation take?

Most home solar systems, installed by Mole Energy, take just one day. Our team conduct detailed surveys before your installation, using our technical expertise to plan each step of your installation well in advance.

How many panels do I need?

A typical home solar PV system includes 12 panels and generates around 4,000kWh of free electricity per year. Most homeowners use between 4,000 and 6,000kWh of electricity per year. Today's solar panels are much more efficient than before with 12 panels generating what 20 panels could in 2010.

How much could I save?

Depending on your system and home energy habits, our customers typically save between £500 and £700 on energy bills, annually, based on a 4kW system; and up to £1,500 with battery storage. The more solar power you use, the more you save!

Over 25 years, the average home solar system offsets the same amount of CO₂ as recycling 16 tonnes of domestic waste or driving a family car for 112,745 miles. That's the same as driving around the Earth 4.5 times.



Can I install a battery retrospectively if I already have solar panels?

Many of our existing customers have chosen to add a battery to their system ('retrofit') to cut their bills further and drive more value from their investment. It's possible to 'build' your home solar system over time, to include car chargers and hot water systems, although we currently only install the latter at the same time as panels or batteries.

Can solar panels charge my electric car?

Yes! Many customers have already bought an electric car or have plans to do so when they replace their current vehicle. Many of our home solar systems include intelligent technology that 'talks to' car chargers to ensure your car battery maximises free solar energy gains. Free fuel!

How much does solar cost?

Prices vary depending on the complexity of the installation, the type of panels and functionality. While our smallest systems start from £4,995, the average home PV system costs around £6,500. A premium array starts at £7,000. Home solar is currently VAT-free. These prices exclude scaffolding costs, which can vary between £500 and £1,000.

Home battery storage is also VAT-free and starts from £7,820 (installed) - but only when purchased at the same time as new solar panels.

Commercial solar installations range from £7,000 to £500,000 and can be more. Solar panels are classed as plant and machinery, which means you may be able to claim tax relief on the capital cost.

How much does battery storage cost?

There are many battery options on the market. Our surveyors will advise on the best one for you, from a range that we have preselected on your behalf.

Retrofit battery storage starts from £8,634 plus VAT (installed), for a Solar Edge Bank, 10kWh battery; through to the Tesla Powerwall 2, which starts from £9,659 plus VAT (installed).

All prices are subject to survey, District Network Operator (DNO) approval and connection charges. Our quotations are valid for 30 days.

Interested in solar? Please visit moleenergy.com to find out more or contact our solar experts today!



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