



What is a Solar Site Assessment?

A site assessment is the first step to determining how a solar system will work for you. A certified assessor will visit the site to have one-on-one meeting with you to understand your needs and answer your questions. They will do a basic energy analysis of your home and recommend energy efficiency improvements where possible. They will evaluate the solar window at the site using specialized tools to find the best location for a solar system.

The site assessor will then write a comprehensive report containing. This evaluation provides:

Optimal Location

The site assessment uses a complete shading analysis of your site. It determines the percentage of time the solar system will be exposed to full sun for each day of the year. The goal is to find the most productive location for the times of the day and year that are most crucial and will provide the most electrical output for solar PV and most thermal output for solar hot water.

Mounting Options

Solar panels can be located on rooftops, on ground mounts or on pole mounts. If the rooftop is not structurally capable or does not receive enough sun, the other options could be explored.

Energy Usage

A full solar site assessment includes an evaluation of the electrical usage over time. This includes the efficiency and usage of appliances, the burdens of heating and cooling, the habits of the residents, the lighting systems. It compares the energy usage to the average consumption in the state.

Expected Energy Output and Estimated System Cost

The site assessor will give an estimate on the expected output and the system cost of the PV system that is recommended based off the sites energy usage.

Financial Incentives

Find out what incentives are still available to offset the initial investment of a solar installation. The site assessment will provide a list of local, state, and federal rebates that are available to you.

Return on Investment

The assessment includes a detailed financial analysis of your investment over time. Accounting for the numerous factors such as shading, initial cost, and financial incentives, find out how long will it take for your system to start to make you money.

What should a customer expect from a site assessment report?

- A review of the goals for having a renewable energy system
- A basic analysis of your energy needs
- An evaluation of the solar resource at your site
- Recommendations for system size and siting to meet energy goals
- Estimate of the system's production
- An initial cost estimate for the system
- An overview of eligible incentives (state, federal, utility) for the system
- Preliminary economic analysis of the system
- The next steps you need to take to make the installation of a system a reality