



We CAN help our consumers!! Looking for something to better discuss solar questions when consumers ask? Need something to help them make a big decision that may or may not be what they expected – instead of afterwards when it's too late? Something that has a list of discussion topics that deserve thought before deciding?

After several years of research to design a practical display to help discuss the use of solar panels, it's finally available. It is designed to be neutral on solar - to be a conversation starter with consumers who may be THINKING ABOUT SOLAR.

This display demonstrates basic solar concepts about power production, equipment needed, how the power flows and many other topics to consider. Equipment is NOT all-inclusive, precisely located, or sized.

- The center section is 22" x 29", similar to our other existing display modules. Overall with the panels open, the display is 22" x 58".
- It is very eye catching and pulls in an audience wherever used. Three control buttons at the top turn on colorful LED chasing lights – to show the flow of power at the house (Solar, Grid and Batteries). They can be displayed individually or all at the same time.
- A video is available on our website, or we can send it to you by email or text.
- The fold out panels are each 14.5" x 22" and serve as the cover when closed and also serve as extra space for information about solar – things to think about.
- The introductory price will be \$600. This display has a total of 1270 square inches of display area, compared to the existing modules which have just over 500 square inches.
- Some customization is possible at reasonable cost. Some who have purchased this display already have done edits such as replace the sun clip art on the top left panel with their company logo, and/or added more or less resource listings at the bottom right.



WE REALLY CAN HELP

- **WE SUPPORT OUR CONSUMERS** and will help provide information so you can make the right decisions about solar energy. Considering solar energy is a big step.
- **THIS DISPLAY** demonstrates basic solar concepts about power production, equipment needed, and how the power flows. Equipment is **NOT** all inclusive, precisely located, or sized.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

- Anyone **CONSIDERING SOLAR** should determine what their goals are. There is **NOT** a one answer fits all for every home. And there are many factors that can contribute to the results one might get with a solar system.
- **RESEARCH YOUR EXPECTATIONS** and potential installers. Your utility may be familiar with local solar companies. Ask for help.

FIRST STEPS TO THINK ABOUT...

- **STANDARDS:** Government jurisdictions and utilities have varying codes, equipment, and policy requirements. A site inspection is important.
- **CHANGES HAPPEN DAILY.** Solar companies and installers change. Rebates and incentives change. Financing rates vary. Get several bids and proposals.
- **DON'T SIGN ANYTHING** until you do all your homework. Read all proposals, agreements, and paperwork carefully. Check with your utility about buyback options.
- **BATTERIES** may not provide all the power you need during a grid outage. Batteries add significant cost to your solar installation. If you purchase batteries for storage, they do have to be replaced periodically.

WHAT ABOUT MY HOUSE?



- **ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADES FOR YOUR HOME** could save you more than solar. Whether you add solar or not, paying for air that is leaking in or out of your home is costly. An efficient home can also shorten the payback time for solar.
- Get an **ENERGY AUDIT** first, before purchasing anything.
- Solar panels need a **FULL, DIRECT SUN** location that faces true south. Do you meet those conditions?
- **YOUR LOCATION'S PEAK SUN HOURS** per day is very important. Some areas are not as suitable as others and will affect the output of solar panels.
- Are there **TREES** around your home or on neighbors' property that may **SHADE** your panels in future years?
- **HOW LONG** will you live in the home? What is the **AGE OF YOUR ROOFING**? If you need a new roof, who removes and replaces solar panels?
- Can your **ROOF SUPPORT** solar panels?
- Does your **HOMEOWNER'S INSURANCE** cover solar panels?
- **SOLAR PANELS IN THE YARD**, at ground level, near your home are easier to maintain than on the roof.
- Are you able to do **PERIODIC MAINTENANCE** on your panels? For example - to clean off dirt, pollen, and trash to keep the panels clean for the sun to penetrate? If not, this may be an added expense.
- Ask about **COMMUNITY SOLAR**, a solar project in a geographic area where consumers buy in or lease together - and benefit from energy generated by solar panels at an off-site array in the community, not at your house.

RESOURCES:

- Your utility website
- Your state energy office
- Touchstone Energy: www.touchstoneenergy/technology
- Federal Energy office: www.energy.gov
- Energy Information Administration: www.eia.gov
- National Renewal Energy Laboratory: www.nrel.gov
- Solar Energy Industries Association: www.seia.org
- National Fire Protection Association: www.nfpa.org