SOLAR FAQ'S

The provided information is intended to be a guide and is not all inclusive. Consumers bear the responsibility to do their own due diligence to research, ask questions, conducting their own review of costs and estimated generation, checking the financial projections offered by vendors and singing agreements.

Who is Eligible?

Residential members may connect their generation, most commonly solar, up to 25 kW. We do have requirements for interconnecting residential systems with our grid that you should be aware of before signing a contract with an installer.

Does MJM sell or install generation?

No. We are happy to advise you on your energy usage as well as our processes and requirements for member-owned generation, but we do not install solar generation or backup generators. We also do not offer rebates or financial incentives for these.

Does MJM recommend any solar installers or contractors?

No. MJM will work with members to connect to the grid but is not involved with the sale or installation of the system.
We do not hire, contract with, or recommend any solar installers or contractors.

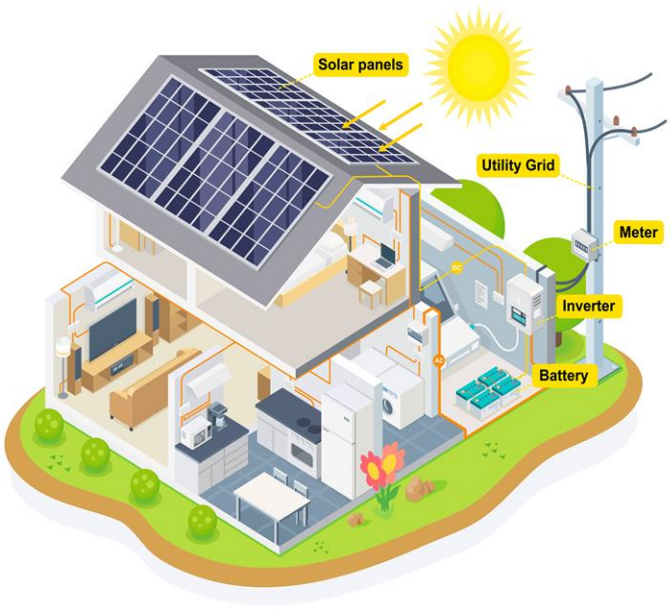
When do solar panels produce energy?

Solar panels can only produce energy with natural light. They do not produce energy at night and will be limited in production on cloudy days or when snow, dirt, or foliage covers panels. Solar systems do not have capability of storing energy without the use of batteries, which come at a high cost to add to your installation.

Will installing solar generation lower my electric bill?

Installing generation **could** offset some of your electric consumption there are many other factors you need to consider.

Renewable generation systems are large financial investments, and it may take many years to see a return on that investment, if any.
Payment methods can greatly affect your return. Are you paying cash up front? Are you financing? How much will interest be?
Make sure you understand the full costs as well as MJM's billing and interconnection requirements.



What is the typical payback for rooftop solar?

Payback periods can vary greatly depending on installation costs, financing, location, tax or installer's incentives, and other variables. **If** payback or return on investment is realized, it may be more than 20 years.

What factors affect payback for on-site generation system?

Factors that can affect payback are installation costs (cost per watt), system design, location, available incentives, net metering tariff changes, and cost of electricity. You can break your installation costs down to what it costs per watt. This is a good way to compare different installers. The system's energy production will depend on the technology used, how the system is wired, and environmental factors. Solar generation can change based on direction and tilt of panels and if there is any shade. Wind generation is affected by location, turbine height, and physical obstacles that interrupt wind flow. In the past, there have been federal tax incentives for renewable energy installations, which can benefit the payback period. Additionally, the net metering tariffs are not contracts and are subject to change. Modifications to the tariff can change the value of excess energy generation.

If I install solar or wind generation, will I still need to connect to MJM?

Yes. The sun does not always shine, and the wind does not always blow. The on-site generation may not produce enough to operate your home. Also, larger motors in your house draw a large in-rush when turned on and your average residential generation system does not have the juice to support this. **Your generation will not normally operate during a power outage as a safety mechanism.** Even if you install batteries, you will only have limited backup power in the event of a power outage.

What size system should I get?

The size of system should depend on the available space, how much energy you use at your service, and what type of energy type you select. We suggest using your past usage history to help estimate size and cost. You can access your history by logging into SmartHub. There are also online tools available to estimate solar generation in your area, like PVWatts Calculator: https://pvwatts.nrel.gov/.