

Is Solar Power Right For You?

There are many ways to utilize renewable technologies in and around your home and, in many cases, you can get help with the upfront costs of installing these features at your home through our energy efficiency rebate program as well as government tax credits, when applicable.

Choosing from solar-powered water well pumps and water heaters to the bigger investment of solar photovoltaic systems, GVEC can recommend choices to help you live a greener lifestyle.

Visit with a GVEC Member Services Advisor to learn more about renewable options and see if they are right for you.

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GuadalupeValleyElectricCooperative, Inc.
800.223.GVEC (4832) | www.gvec.org

Solar Power

Utilizing the Power of the Sun



GuadalupeValleyElectricCooperative, Inc.



Making Electricity From Sunlight

Solar panels capture energy from the sun and turn it into electricity. Another word commonly used for “solar” is photovoltaic.

How Does It Work?

Photovoltaic (PV) cells in the panel are made of semiconductors—crystalline silicon or other thin-film materials—that can convert sunlight directly into electricity, which can be used for the home or sent to a power grid.

Why Is It Important?

Like wind, the sun’s energy is a renewable resource and a clean source of power. Texas has a lot of sun—many areas get 300+ days of sunshine each year. This makes solar energy a viable renewable option for our area, which can be used in many ways from powering solar-powered water well pumps to homes.

Interesting Facts About Solar Power

- Photovoltaic systems produce clean, reliable electricity without consuming any fossil fuels.
- The energy output of a 1kW solar energy unit is roughly equivalent to the burning of 170 pounds of coal and 300 pounds of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere.
- Solar energy requires little maintenance and comes with financial incentives including GVEC rebates. Tax deductions and tax credits may also be applicable.

Sources: Energy.gov and Solarbuzz.com

Solar Photovoltaic Systems

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems use solar panels to convert energy from the sun into electricity. While most systems won’t power your entire home, they can supplement your energy usage and reduce your utility bill. Plus, what your home doesn’t use, you can sell back to GVEC. GVEC’s renewable rebates and government tax credits, which may be available, can help reduce the cost of installation when you use a GVEC Listed Renewable Rebate Contractor. Ask to speak to a Member Services Advisor today.

Solar Water Heaters

For homes that use a large amount of hot water and are exposed to a lot of sun, a solar water heater may be economical. At its simplest form, cold water is piped to a solar collector where it is warmed by the sun. Then it is sent to the water heater tank. If the water isn’t warm enough, then the conventional water heater turns on. Therefore, the temperature or availability of hot water is not affected.

Solar Water Well Pumps

A solar water well pump is an economic alternative to powering a remote water well where utility power is not accessible. The solar panels should be placed where they will get the most direct sunlight and away from trees or other brush.

Financial Support For Renewable Energy:

GVEC supports our members’ efforts toward leading a more energy conscious lifestyle. Take advantage of:

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems*

- Rebates of \$2.50/Watt—up to maximum \$10,000 (4kW)

Solar Water Heaters

- Rebates of \$1,000/Water Heater

Solar Water Well Pumps

- Rebates of \$750/Unit

Government Support:

Federal tax credits and, where applicable, government grants may also be available for energy efficient home improvements under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Get more details at www.dsireusa.org.

*For program details or to apply for your renewable rebate, visit **GVEC’s Rebate Center** on www.gvec.org. If you have additional questions, email rebates@gvec.org or call 1.800.223.GVEC (4832).*



Solar alternatives can be significant investments. Make your purchase from a partner you can trust for reliable information, installation, and service.

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