

The Oil Drum: Campfire

Discussions about Energy and Our Future

What Practical Advice Can Readers Offer Regarding Home Solar PV? (Open thread)

Posted by [Gail the Actuary](#) on January 13, 2010 - 7:10pm in [The Oil Drum: Campfire](#)

Topic: [Alternative energy](#)

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I am sure there are at least a few readers who have solar PV installed, and others who are considering installing solar PV. Someone sent me an e-mail, asking if we could do a Campfire discussion of practical advice regarding solar PV, based on the experiences of readers who have tried it.

Below the fold are a few questions that come to mind. I am sure that if you are using solar PV, you may have answers to questions I haven't even thought of.

1. Is it best to work with someone who both sells and installs solar PV panels? Or is this something that people end up doing themselves, using a variety of vendors?
2. What brands/ types are best?
3. How much maintenance is required?
4. What experiences have people had who purchased solar PV, then moved to another home? Did the addition of solar PV help the resale value?
5. What have buyers experience with battery back-up been? Is a small amount worthwhile, even if a homeowner is on the grid?
6. Are there any particular issues with inverters that readers should be aware of?
7. If you have purchased solar PV, are you generally happy with it?
8. Where does one find good material to read regarding solar PV?



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