

# Solar Facts

Long Island, with its high electric rates and above average amount of sunshine, is an ideal location for solar energy. Now, LIPA rebates and state and federal tax credits for solar electric systems (up to \$50,000 for homeowners, as of September 2009) make it even more attractive for Long Islanders to tap the power of the sun.

## What is a photovoltaic system?

A solar electric or photovoltaic (PV) system consists of *solar panels* that convert sunlight into electricity, plus an *inverter* that converts the electricity and connects the system safely to utility power lines.

## What do these systems cost?

A small residential system (3kW) could cost around \$22,000, with net cost after rebates and tax credits, of less than \$6,000. Panels typically come with a 25 year warranty and a good system will last much longer with very little maintenance.

## 32 How does solar power protect the environment?

Solar power improves air quality and public health. Over 25 years, a 3 kW PV system in NY will eliminate 80 tons of carbon dioxide, the chief greenhouse gas responsible for global warming and climate change.

## What is Net Metering?

When you use electricity from LIPA, the meter spins forward. But, when your system generates more power than you consume, the meter spins backward and the excess energy is fed back to LIPA. Monthly billing is only for net consumption and you pay only for the net amount of electricity supplied by LIPA.

## How do the solar income tax credits work?

**NY State taxpayers** can claim a state income tax credit of 25% (capped at \$5,000) for their **primary** residence. **Federal tax credits** are available for 30% with no cap for residential and commercial installations.

## Before You Buy Solar

Make sure your home is as energy efficient as possible so you don't waste your solar kilowatts. State-of-the-art energy efficient lighting and appliances will maximize your investment in solar power. Visit [RenewableEnergyLongIsland.org](http://RenewableEnergyLongIsland.org) for useful ideas for saving energy and money at home or at your work place.

## SunshineIsFree.org



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Get a hands-on solar experience!

National Solar Tour & Green Buildings Open House organized locally by RELI

**First Saturday of October each year**  
2009 ~ October 3rd  
2010 ~ October 2nd



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