



Environmental Benefits

Installing solar will help you reach your personal or corporate environmental objectives, reduce carbon dioxide emissions and other air pollutants, and help prevent climate change and a host of other environmental and public health threats caused by fossil fuel energy.

Energy Savings

A solar system on your building or property means you can both use the PV electricity and sell it to your utility for credit to lower your utility bills. When the system generates more electricity than needed, your electricity meter will run backward. If you need more electricity than the system generates, you use electricity from your utility as usual. Called "net-metering," it reduces an electricity bill to the difference between how much a solar system produces and how much electricity is used.

Price Stability

Utility electricity prices in California increase as natural gas and other fuel prices increase, but the cost of sunlight never changes-it's always free. When electricity from a utility becomes more expensive, your solar system saves you more money and pays for itself even faster.

Reliability

Facilities that operate sensitive technology or need backup power for added reliability in case of brownout or grid failure find solar-battery systems an attractive alternative to diesel generators, which pollute and can be expensive to maintain.

Brand Enhancement

After installing a solar system, a business may qualify as a [Certified Green Business](#), thus improving the company's profile, marketing potential, and product distinction. *(For more information on the SF Green Business program, go to www.sfgreenbiz.org.)* Green businesses attract a growing number of consumers who are looking for businesses committed to environmental stewardship. Certified Green Businesses also report that their environmental initiatives increase employee satisfaction.

For more information please visit SFEnvironment.org or call (415) 355-3780.

SFEnvironment is a department of the City & County of San Francisco.