



CHECKLIST FOR SOLAR PV



SYSTEM SIZE

Size the PV system based on your annual consumption not the size of your roof or your peak monthly load. Sizing the system based on your peak load in the summer means you may generate excess power during the other months. Utilities buy excess electricity at lower rates. Excess power lowers your ROI.



INCENTIVES

The 30% investment tax credit (ITC) is available nationwide. Check your local area for additional rebate programs. If you calculate the 30% ITC on your overall system costs, you may owe income tax on the local rebate. To be safe, subtract the local rebate from the total cost, then apply the 30% tax credit.



GOALS

Determine your goals. Are you focused on the environmental benefits, the return on investment or do you want to be an early adopter. Ask your solar "architect" to design the system around your goals.



COST

How much should solar cost? Competition drives down costs. In my home market, which is in San Antonio Texas, the average cost in 2015 was \$3.50 per watt for a residential system. If your quote is higher, shop around.



INSTALLATION COMPANY

This one is tough? Do you know anyone with solar? Probably not. Does your utility company have a list of "certified installers"? Your best bet is to find an advocate, nonprofit or solar "architect" to help. If you live in Texas, send me an email - I know several qualified firms.



AFTER THE INSTALLATION

How do you know the installation company installed the equipment you paid for? Do you have a performance guarantee? What about a maintenance plan?

Solar Panels Checklist

Dale R. Patrick, Stephen W. Fardo



Solar Panels Checklist:

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Table of Contents Solar Panels Checklist

1. Understanding the eBook Solar Panels Checklist
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Solar Panels Checklist
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Solar Panels Checklist
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Solar Panels Checklist
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Solar Panels Checklist
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - Solar Panels Checklist User Reviews and Ratings
 - Solar Panels Checklist and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Solar Panels Checklist Free and Paid eBooks
 - Solar Panels Checklist Public Domain eBooks
 - Solar Panels Checklist eBook Subscription Services
 - Solar Panels Checklist Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating Solar Panels Checklist eBook Formats

- ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Solar Panels Checklist Compatibility with Devices
 - Solar Panels Checklist Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Solar Panels Checklist
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Solar Panels Checklist
 - Interactive Elements Solar Panels Checklist
 8. Staying Engaged with Solar Panels Checklist
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Solar Panels Checklist
 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Solar Panels Checklist
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Solar Panels Checklist
 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Solar Panels Checklist
 - Setting Reading Goals Solar Panels Checklist
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Solar Panels Checklist
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Solar Panels Checklist
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
 14. Embracing eBook Trends
 - Integration of Multimedia Elements
 - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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