

## Solar + Battery Storage

### **Make Your Home or Business More Resilient**

Battery storage is a clean option to power your home or business during a power outage. These battery systems come in different sizes and types, offering a range of options to suit different energy needs.

If you have rooftop solar, you can charge the battery during the day when your solar system generates clean energy. Later, you can use this stored power from the battery during the evening hours, especially when the electricity from the grid is less clean and more expensive.

By installing batteries with solar panels, you can store excess solar energy instead of selling it back to the electric grid at wholesale prices. This provides greater control over your energy usage and helps reduce your carbon footprint while increasing your personal resilience.

### **Solar + Battery Storage Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Will my solar panels provide power during a power outage?**

Without battery storage and a special inverter to ‘island’ during a power outage, your rooftop solar system won’t provide power to your home. This is to protect utility workers who could be working on the electric grid from unexpected solar power flowing back onto the grid during power outages.

#### **Can solar power with battery storage run my whole home during a power outage?**

It depends. If you want to power your entire home, you will likely need multiple batteries. Instead of installing additional battery backup, which can become costly, a more practical solution is to design a backup system to power critical loads only. This means selecting specific circuits in the house to power the most important items such as refrigeration, lighting, entertainment, communications, and any medical devices.

#### **Can I install a battery storage system without solar panels?**

Yes, but the main disadvantage is that during a power outage, you won’t have the option to recharge the battery from the grid since your home’s grid connection will be shut off.

#### **How will battery storage impact my net-energy-metering (NEM) credits and monthly bill?**

This will vary widely depending on how the battery system is installed. We encourage customers to consult with their installer. Having a battery does not change the amount of solar produced, but it will impact the amount of energy consumed from the grid or exported to the grid.

Customers should take their rate schedule into consideration when using energy. The installation of a battery allows customers to be eligible for EV2 rate. Please note, that customers who wish to take advantage of the Self Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) will need to switch to EV2 rate in most cases. The EV2 rate has a peak period of 4–9 PM, when grid power is more expensive than off-peak times.

Charging the battery from solar panels will impact the amount of electricity being exported to the grid from the solar system. Customers receive credits when energy is being fed back into the grid. Since the amount of solar generation going to the grid is reduced, the dollar credit will also be reduced.

No matter how your system is set up, exporting to the grid via solar or battery will produce credits and or charges. Your PG&E distribution charges will be calculated based on the energy you're using from the grid.

If the solar plus battery system is set up strictly for power outages such as PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) customers will see negligible impacts to their NEM credit balance.