

DEFEATING THE PEAK:

A BLUEPRINT FOR MODERN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE THROUGH SOLAR + BATTERY

Traditional net metering, which credits solar owners equally for the excess energy they send back to the grid, is rapidly fading away in favor of new utility billing models. Learn some of the newer and alternative models so you can “defeat the peak” with solar plus battery backup.

VARIABLE EXPORT RATES & NET BILLING

Instead of paying retail rates, some utilities compensate solar owners based on a **fluctuating “avoided cost”** (what it would cost the utility to generate that power itself).

Wholesale or avoided-cost export rates are typically

75% LOWER

than what a customer pays to buy power from the grid.¹

THE “DANGER ZONE” OF TOU (TIME OF USE)

Utilities adjust electricity prices based on the time of day. Unfortunately, the most expensive rates occur right as the sun is going down.



Peak pricing typically occurs between
4:00 – 9:00 PM

DEMAND CHARGES: THE 15-MINUTE TRAP

For **commercial properties**, utility bills aren't a total sum of energy used – they also include the rate of usage. This means businesses can be heavily penalized for even a single spike of power usage.

A SINGLE 15-MINUTE SPIKE IN ENERGY USAGE CAN ACCOUNT FOR UP TO

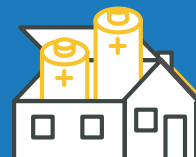
50% OF A MONTHLY UTILITY BILL²

THE RISE OF VIRTUAL POWER PLANTS (VPPs)

A VPP is an aggregated network of distributed energy resources (like home batteries and EV chargers) that grid operators can tap into during high-stress events. **Property owners with solar + battery get paid to participate!**

SOLAR + BATTERY STORAGE AS THE ULTIMATE SHIELD

A smart solar and battery storage system helps you effortlessly dodge **TOU spikes and other electricity traps** while optimizing your energy for VPPs.



THE PIVOT TO “SELF-CONSUMPTION”

While several states still offer 1:1 net metering, markets with lower export rates require a new strategy: maximizing self-consumption to ensure you use your own generated power rather than buying expensive retail electricity.

Adding battery storage can increase a property's self-consumption rate from

30%–80%³

1. <https://aurorasolar.com/home-solar/blog/solar-101/net-metering>

2. <https://docs.nlr.gov/docs/fy17osti/69016.pdf>

3. <https://solartechonline.com/blog/solar-self-consumption-guide/>

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