Price of solar panels per megawatt

Overview

Let's cut through the solar industry jargon - when we talk about solar per MW cost, we're really asking: "How much will this sun-powered investment dent my wallet?

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A typical American household needs a 10-kilowatt (kW) system to adequately power their home, which costs $28,241 in 2025. That price effectively drops to $19,873 after considering the full federal solar tax credit. NOTE: Under the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" signed in July 2025, the federal solar.

Each year, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) and its national laboratory partners analyze cost data for U.S. solar photovoltaic (PV) systems to develop cost benchmarks. These benchmarks help measure progress toward goals for reducing solar electricity costs.

The average cost of a solar panel installation is approximately $1 million to $3 million per megawatt, 2. Factors like location and technology substantially influence pricing, 3. The overall costs include equipment, installation, and maintenance, 4. Financial incentives and tax breaks can lower the.

As of 2025, the average cost of residential solar panels in the U.S. is between $15,000 and $25,000 before incentives. This typically translates to about $2.50 to $3.50 per watt of installed capacity (more on price per watt below). The total price depends on your system size, location, roof type.

Here is a breakdown of the cost of renewable energy according to our research, ranked by least to most expensive: Compare these costs to ultra-supercritical coal, which costs $72.78 per megawatt-hour, more than double the cost of solar energy. And ultra-supercritical coal is a type of coal plant.

NREL analyzes the total costs associated with installing photovoltaic (PV) systems for residential rooftop, commercial rooftop, and utility-scale ground-mount systems. This work has grown to include cost models for solar-plus-storage systems. NREL's PV cost benchmarking work uses a bottom-up. How much do solar panels cost?

The price of solar panels changes depending on where you live, but the average for installation is just under $29,000 or $2.75 per watt. On the high end, we talked to a solar customer in Hawaii who spent $100,000 going solar. Dion in Nevada said their 10-kW system cost about $20,000, which is about the national average price for a 7-kW system.

How much does a solar system cost per watt?

As of publishing, the average cost per watt is $2.84. Most solar companies set the price according to the solar system's wattage. A solar installation's "cost per watt" is a little like the "price per square foot" when you buy a house. It helps compare the value of solar energy systems in different sizes.

What is the relative cost of solar energy?

Another measure of the relative cost of solar energy is its price per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Whereas the price per watt considers the solar system's size, the price per kWh shows the price of the solar system per unit of energy it produces over a given period of time. Net cost of the system / lifetime output = cost per kilowatt hour.

How much does it cost to install and manage solar panels?

According to studies by the U.S. Department of Energy, the all-in cost of a home solar panel system is between $2.74 to $3.30 per watt. 1,2,12 This figure includes the solar panels, the installation, and other expenses.

How much does a home solar system cost?

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these numbers, an average-sized 8-kilowatt residential solar system would cost between $21,900 – $26,400.

How much does solar cost in 2025?

Partner your group with SolarTech and dominate the solar energy market. Historic Low Pricing: Solar costs have reached unprecedented lows in 2025, with systems ranging from $2.50-$3.50 per watt installed, making the technology more accessible than ever before.

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