



**COMMUNITY CLIMATE**  
COLLABORATIVE

# Before You Go Solar at Home

June 28, 2023



**Hosted by Teri Strother**

Team Lead, Make Your Own Impact

# Today's Game Plan

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## What to Know Before You Go Solar at Home

### The Basics of Residential Solar

Jeff Hegeman, Tiger Solar

### Expert Panel

Katie VanLangren, LEAP

Aaron Sutch, Solar United Neighbors

Happy Solar Homeowner

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# What to Know Before You Go Solar

What's Your Why

Questions to ask your installer

Net metering 101

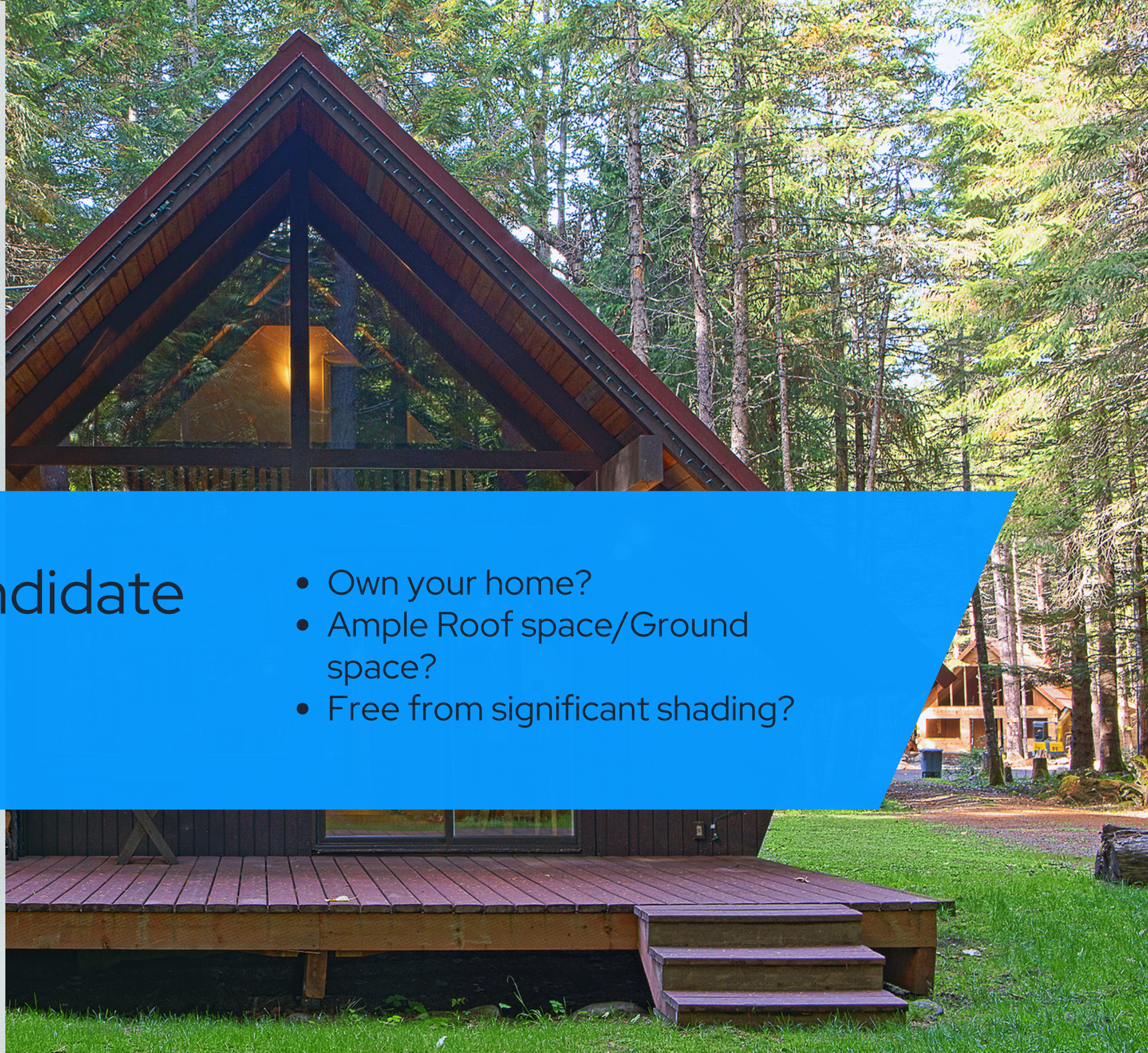
Comparing quotes

Incentives



**Jeff Hegeman**

Tiger Solar



## Am I a candidate for Solar?

- Own your home?
- Ample Roof space/Ground space?
- Free from significant shading?

# Before You Go Solar

- What stage are you in?
- What is your decision timeline?
- What is your budget?
- How do you plan on funding the project?
- Be sure to get 2-3 quotes



# What's Your Why?

Environmental

- Make an impact
- Reduce your footprint

Financial

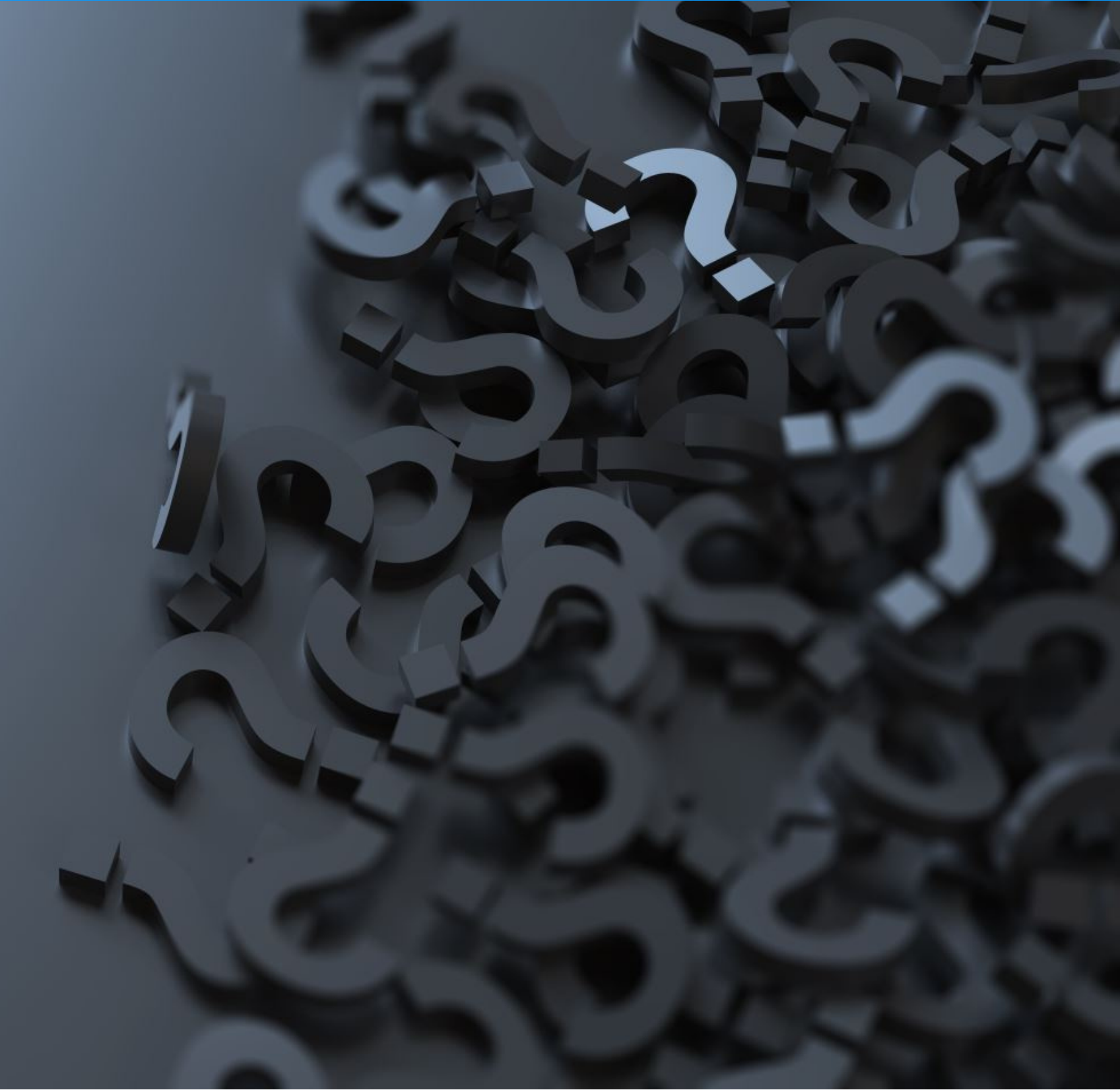
- Rate of Return – 6+%
- Payback period – 8-14 years
- Levelize cost for energy

Leave a Legacy

- For the future
- For your kids

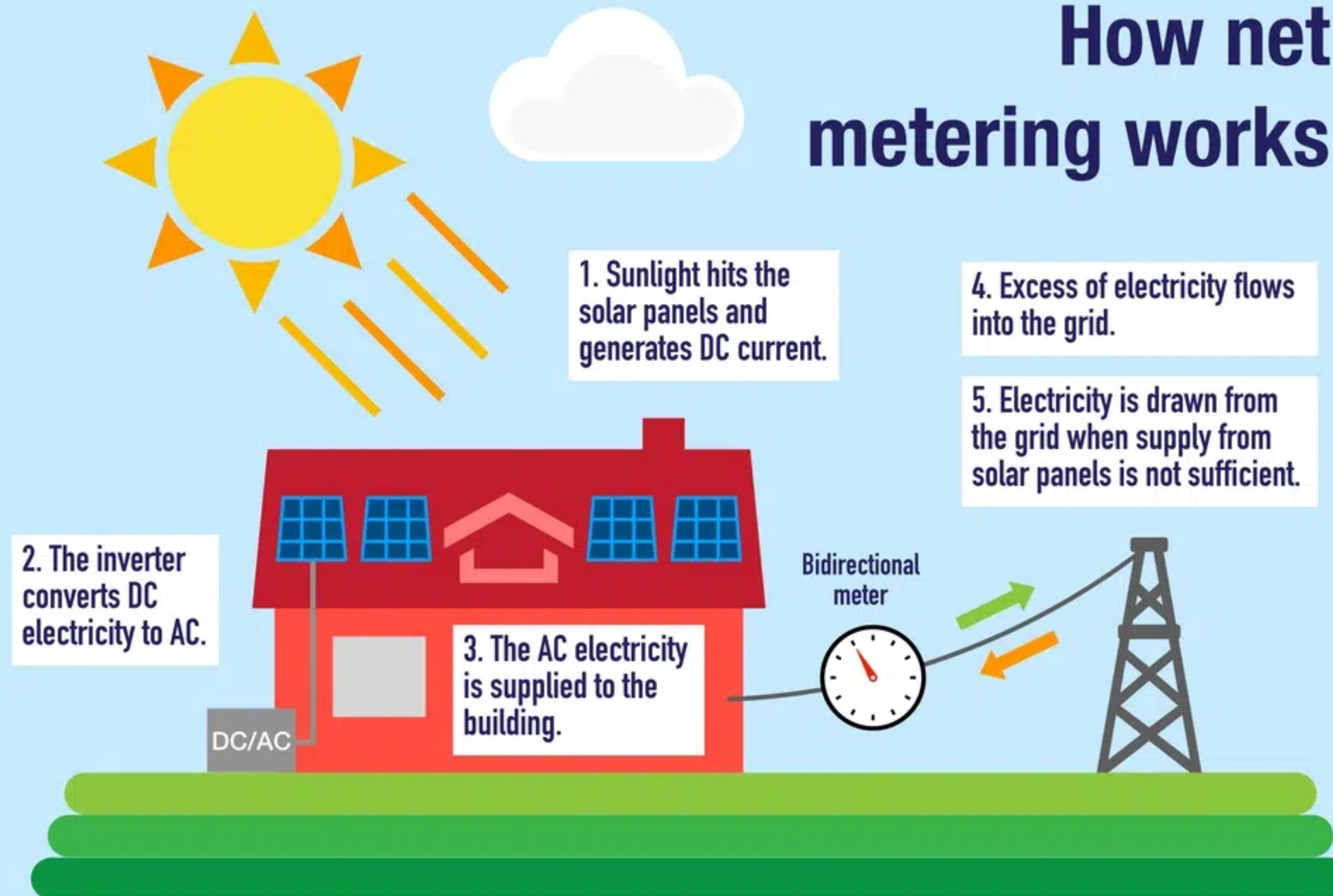


# Questions to ask your installer

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- Where are you based?
  - Do you subcontract?
  - What warranties/guarantees do you offer?
  - How long have you been installing?
  - Can you provide references?
  - How and why do you choose the materials you use?
  - What does future maintenance look like?

# What is Net Metering?

## How net metering works



- Excess power is credited by the power company at 1:1 by law (retail rate)
- Credits have a 12-month rolling lifespan; First in, First out
- Credits are used in times of no or low production (night, rain, snow, etc.)
- Does not pay to produce more than you consume; Use it or lose it



# Comparing Quotes



## Materials

- What panels/inverters are used
  - Size of panel, Warranty, etc.
  - Micro-Inverter versus String

## Overall Size and Placement

- Roof Planes Utilized
- Total amount of panels

## Guarantees/Warranties

- Production Guarantee
- Workmanship Warranty

## Price Per Watt (PPW)

## Production Estimate

- Where does that number come from
- Why is it different from others (if applicable)

# Typical Solar Timeline (once you're under contract)



Design and Engineering – 2 to 5 days



Installer submits for permits – 7 to 10 business days to approve (varies)



Installation Day! – 1 to 5 days (varies by complexity)



Final Inspection – 2 to 5 days



Permission to Operate (PTO) – 30 days after inspection



# Incentives

## 30% Federal Investment Tax Credit (FITC)

- Dependent upon tax liability
- 30% of the total system cost, including batteries
- Look for other incentives:  
<https://www.dsireusa.org/>



Form **5695**  
Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service  
Name(s) shown on return

Information about Form 5695 and its separate instructions. Attach to Form 1040.

**Residential Energy Efficient Property Credit** (See instructions for carryforward)

**Part I Residential Energy Efficient Property Credit**  
Note: Skip lines 1 through 11 if you only have:

- Qualified solar electric property costs
- Qualified solar water heating property costs
- Qualified small wind energy property costs

# Expert Panel



**Katie VanLangen**  
LEAP



**Jeff Hegeman**  
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