



Understanding Solar Quotes

Solar energy has become very popular in Arkansas. However, a common-sense approach should be used when confronted with sales presentations that sound too good to be true. Understanding solar quotes can help you make an informed decision. If you are considering solar, contact Carroll Electric at 800-432-9720 for help calculating the impact a solar installation will have on your electric bill.

“Energy independence” and “taking control of energy costs” are phrases that sound empowering and attractive when used. Remember, the sun does not shine 24/7, and having access to utility power is still the most reliable source of energy you can utilize. Battery storage options do exist but are very expensive and have their limits.

FACT Installing solar does not eliminate your monthly electric bill. While you can possibly reduce your overall electric bill with solar, there are some charges on your bill that are fixed each month that simply cannot be avoided.

Many solar quotes apply a 4% to 6% annual increase to your current energy rate. This practice drastically increases estimated savings over time and is a tactic to create a sense of urgency in your need to install solar.

FACT Over the last 30 years, Carroll Electric’s residential rates have increased by an average of 1.33% each year and are presently 17% below the national average.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration – Average Retail Price of Electricity 2021.

A tax credit is an allowance issued by the federal government. If you meet eligibility guidelines, the qualified amount can be subtracted from the amount of taxes you owe in a given year. A tax “credit” does NOT result in a cash-in-hand refund, rather it simply reduces the amount of taxes, if any, that you owe.

Best Practices

- ✓ Never sign a contract without taking the time to research every claim, promise, and figure.
- ✓ If you choose to have solar installed, do not oversize your system. Excess production has less value and will decrease the possibility of recouping your investment.
- ✓ Focus on energy efficiency improvements first. These improvements can reduce your overall energy use, reduce the size of the solar system you need, and can potentially save you more dollars.
- ✓ Grid-tied solar installations require utility approval.
- ✓ Make sure your property or homeowners association or city regulations permit the installation of solar.
- ✓ Contact Carroll Electric and let us help you understand the impact installing solar can have on your electric bill.

Another claim sometimes made is “**solar energy will keep working when the power goes out.**” Unless a home’s solar energy system is fully independent of the electric grid, a solar-powered home will still lose power during an outage. When the power goes out, the solar facility shuts down as a safety precaution to protect the workers who are fixing the lines from being harmed by any electrical pushback.