1kw grid tie solar system

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There are many articles currently available on the internet that claim to tell you how to size your home solar PV system, and while some of them give some good advice (and some terrible advice), they usually give a method of system sizing that is only appropriate for one specific type of system and only apply to one country or region.

This article will take you step by step through sizing your grid-tied residential solar PV system regardless of your goals for the system and regardless of which country or region you are from.

Depending on where you live, you will be faced with different rules around how you will be compensated for feeding electricity back to the grid. These rules are determined by your state, or by your utility and can have a large impact on the size of your PV system

The three most common scenarios are net metering, a feed-in tariff, or no compensation.

Whichever of these applies to you, will completely change how you approach your system sizing. Generally with net metering you should aim to match your annual electricity usage, as you often don"t get paid for overproducing. With a very high feed-in tariff you will usually try to install the largest system you can afford. And with a very low, or no feed-in tariff, you need to size your system so you use as much of the electricity your system produces as you can, and try not to export too much to the grid.

To determine which system is applicable in your area searching online is a good start. If you can"t find the information you are looking for, you should contact your local utility directly.

If net metering is not available in your area, click here to skip to the next section.

If you are living in an area where net metering is offered, then sizing your system is relatively straight forward. You will generally want your system to produce the same amount of electricity as you consume in one year, as this will maximize your return on your investment.

If at the end of the year, you have produced more electricity than you have used, most net metering schemes will not allow these credits to roll into the next year. Therefore you are not getting paid for some of the electricity that you have produced, and you usually would have been better off saving money by installing a smaller solar PV system.

On the other hand, it may make sense to oversize your system if you are planning to increase the electricity usage in your home in the future. For example switching to an electric car, switching from gas to electric cooking and heating, or if a member of the household is likely to be spending more time at home, for example

a stay-at-home mom or someone retiring. Depending on how far into the future you are planning to make these changes, it could also be worth considering building a smaller system now with the flexibility to increase the system size later.

Be careful when oversizing your system, as some utilities may deny your application to connect if your system appears to be larger than necessary given your past usage history. You always need to confirm that your utility will allow the system size you plan to install before purchasing components etc.

The following method will target reducing your average power bill to zero over the year. Keep in mind that this is based on averages, so individual years will vary. Also remember that solar PV systems degrade over time, so the system will produce a smaller percentage of your total power consumption in later years.

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