

A guide to a comfortable, efficient home

# Solar PV panels

With proper planning and the right setup, solar PV retrofitting offers a sustainable way to reduce your energy costs and carbon footprint.

With over a million UK homes already equipped with solar panels, retrofitting solar PV systems is a proven way to generate renewable energy and reduce bills. This guide covers the key steps to get started with solar retrofitting, from choosing an installer to setting up payments for exported energy.

## Where to start

Cosy Homes Oxfordshire will arrange for a trusted, MCS-certified solar installer to visit your property. They will assess your property, provide options for panels and inverters, and offer a quotation with an estimate of energy generation, annual savings, and payback period. As costs can vary significantly, it's best to obtain a couple of quotes to find the right option for your needs.

## Planning work

Solar panel installation typically requires scaffolding, which presents an opportunity to tackle other maintenance and retrofit tasks, such as:

- Roof, chimney and gutter maintenance
- External wall insulation
- Window replacement
- Addressing thermal bridges at wall-roof junctions

If you plan to complete additional work, discuss it with your installer to ensure the scaffolding setup meets all your needs.

## Getting up and running

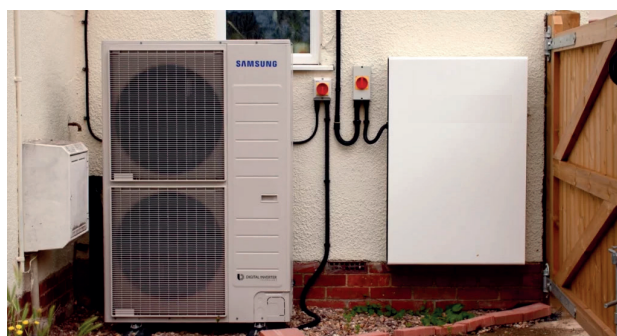
Once installed, register for the Smart Export Guarantee to receive payments for the solar energy you export to the grid. Check Solar Energy UK's league table for energy suppliers offering competitive rates. Most schemes require:

- An MCS certificate from your installer
- A smart meter or export meter to track exported energy

## Using excess solar energy effectively

Instead of exporting surplus solar energy to the grid, consider battery storage or hot water inverters.

Batteries store energy for later use, like powering your home in the evening, while hot water inverters use excess electricity to heat your water. These technologies can maximise your solar investment and reduce reliance on the grid, especially as export tariffs often offer limited returns.



Over a million homes in the UK already have solar panels, many of which have been retrofitted.



[cosyhomesoxfordshire.org](https://cosyhomesoxfordshire.org)  
or call 0330 223 2742\*

\*Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm