

Solar Panels

- If any section of your roof gets 4-5 hours of sun per day, it might make sense.
- Have companies provide a solar analysis to determine if it makes sense and where to place panels

Things to look for:

- Price (about \$6 - \$7 per watt depending on system size). We paid about \$6.75 per watt.
- Financing (some companies have 1 yr no interest)
- Availability / Timing (some companies can install sooner than others)
- Support / Warranty (most panels should have a 20 year warranty)
- Removal and Reinstallation (what if roof repairs are needed at a later date)

In our case, we chose a 2.25 KW system which is the smallest most companies will do. Cost breakdown is the following:

Project Cost (2.25 KW)	15,188
30% Montgomery County Credit (up to \$5,000)	-5,000
30% Federal Tax Credit (Materials)	-4,556
MD State Tax Credit (now 1/2 as much)	-2,625
Net Cost after Rebate	3,007

Annual Electricity Cost Savings	350
Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs) Value	850
Annual Solar Income	1,200
Return on Investment (Years)	2.5

Solar Companies in the MD area:

- Standard Solar – 888-474-3843, <http://www.standardsolar.com>
- Maryland Solar Solutions – 443-218-2620, <http://www.marylandsolarsolutions.com>
- GroSolar - 800.374.4494, <http://www.grosolar.com/residential/map/md.html>
- GreenBrilliance – 888-365-2754, <http://www.greenbrilliance.com>

Other items to look into:

- Home Energy Audit \$100 – 888-586-3343, <http://www.edge-gogreen.com>
- Washington Gas Energy Services (WGES) – 1-888-884-WGES, <http://www.wges.com>
WGES offers lower rates for electric and natural gas, still paid through PEPCO / Washington Gas
WGES offers an electric rate of **9.00¢/kWh**, standard rate or **11.00¢/kWh** for wind power
- PEPCO Energy Wise Rewards – 866-353-5798, <http://www.pepco.com/rewards>
Sign up for a free Programmable Thermostat or a Digital Cycling Unit (DCU)
Get a one-time credit of \$80 per HVAC plus an additional credit up to \$80 each year (for the DCU).
- Energy-Efficient Lighting – Home Depot EcoSmart 14-Watt (60W equivalent) CFL - \$2.00 per bulb