Solar-Powered Living: Why Should You Use Solar Energy At Home?

Environmental conservation has been a hot topic in the past years, and you may have heard of “solar energy” being mentioned in these discussions. Solar power is usually deemed as a cleaner and more renewable energy source compared to our traditional sources. But despite its environmental benefits, solar energy might still be far from being considered a mainstream option for residential use.

Without its conscious and consistent application, homeowners could be missing out on the benefits of a solar-powered home, such as the following.

Huge savings

Many homeowners are hesitant about going solar because installation may cost a lot. But once you are using solar energy, you could cut the costs of your electricity bills for even more than the amount you spent on installation.

You can use solar energy to power almost anything that requires electricity in your home, from your lights to heating needs. It could even power an electric submersible water pump used for sewage, drainage or pond filters. Since solar energy could basically replace your main power source, you will not have to solely rely on utility companies for your electricity needs and you would not have to pay for the solar energy that you generate yourself.

Rebates and incentive programs

Most energy consumers tend to put the greatest demands on their power grids during hot weather or when the sun shines brightest. Meanwhile, solar panels are most effective in these times. Homeowners who use solar energy to power their home may even generate surplus electricity during such days.

In return for the reduced stress on their system and the extra power you generated, your electric utility provider may give you a rebate for each surplus watt which your home generated. On top of this, governments around the world offer tax credits and incentive programs to households that use solar energy.

The Australian government, for example, offers benefits under the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES) to households and small businesses that use small scale renewable energy systems. In the US, the Solar Investment Tax Credit (ITC), also known as the federal solar tax credit, provides a tax credit worth 30% of the cost of installing a solar energy system. The ITC is applicable for homes and businesses, and has no limit on the value that can be credited.

Minimal maintenance

Some may be deterred from choosing solar energy because they think it has high maintenance costs. But contrary to this belief, solar energy systems actually require little or no maintenance. There is not much left for you to do once the solar energy equipment have been installed in your home, and it does not require regular maintenance checks.

However, solar panels would still need to be cleaned regularly. Annual cleanings are usually sufficient, but panels in areas that get less rain may need a more frequent cleaning. If you happen to encounter problems or if you have any questions about your system, it is best that you contact your installer immediately.

Solar energy might just be a more practical option at a time when energy rates keep increasing. Solar energy equipment are getting more affordable as well, especially with governments supporting its usage. Aside from all of these, the ultimate benefit of using solar energy at home can be its contribution to saving the planet.

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