

SOLAR ENERGY EXPLAINED: *what is grid-tie?*



Peace Energy Co-op's home office in Dawson Creek, BC is 100% powered by this 5 kilowatt solar array. Happily, the electrical bills for this building have been zero since the solar array was installed seven years ago. Sweet!

an asset that also retains its value, increasing the resale value of the home or business.

WHAT IS GRID-TIED SOLAR?

Grid-tied, roof-top solar is the easiest, simplest way to “go solar” with the biggest bang for your buck. Electricity your solar array produces powers your home or business first (with power you don't have to buy from the grid!) then any excess is automatically sent into the grid through your existing power panel.

Power not needed during the day is exported back into the grid for a credit on your account. You can then use that credit against power used a night or during the winter. In BC a typical solar system yields a 5-10% rate of return on the cash invested, calculated on the installed system costs divided by the energy production over the life of the system. Systems are designed to last 30 years or more with very little maintenance (if any), and every time the grid rates increase, solar becomes an ever better deal!



Putting solar panels on your home roof, 10,000 solar roofs *every day!*

garage, shop or barn now makes good economic sense, but solar technology is quite new in western Canada. In BC, for instance, there are fewer than 3000 rooftop solar arrays powering homes and businesses.

Not so in much of the rest of the world. In Japan there are over two million solar roofs, Australia more than three million. China, by far the world's leader in solar, is installing some

Solar makes economic sense because a solar array will produce electricity at costs close to or better than buying utility power, and it will fix those costs for decades, avoiding grid rate increases.

Plus, the owner has a long-term home or business asset that not only pays for itself over time with reduced electrical bills, (with a much better rate of return than any bank can offer!) but