

POWER YOUR HOME WITH SOLAR ENERGY

Residential Solar Checklist

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Reduce the amount of energy your homes uses by increasing your home's energy efficiency. Signing up for a Home Energy Squad® visit is a great way to identify energy-saving improvements. During your visit you will receive free energy-saving installations such as: LED light bulbs, a programmable thermostat, door weather stripping, and more. Visits also include a blower door test to measure for air leaks, an insulation inspection, a safety check on your heating system, and help with next steps. The cost is only **\$50** for Fridley residents (normally \$100)!

Visit HomeEnergySquad.net or call **612-328-6220**.

START PLANNING

1. Determine your home's solar potential: It's important to consider your home's solar potential before deciding if installing solar panels is right for you. You can get a sense of your solar potential by using the Minnesota Solar Suitability App. Visit mn.gov/SolarApp.

2. Talk to the City: Solar panels that are attached to your principal structure are allowed without a special use permit. You will need to obtain a building permit and electrical permit before installation. The permit requires two sets of engineered plans and the cost depends on the value of the panels. Detached solar panels require a special use permit. Special limitations may be required for attached or detached solar panels on properties west of East River Road related to the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area. Contact Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner at **763-572-3594**.

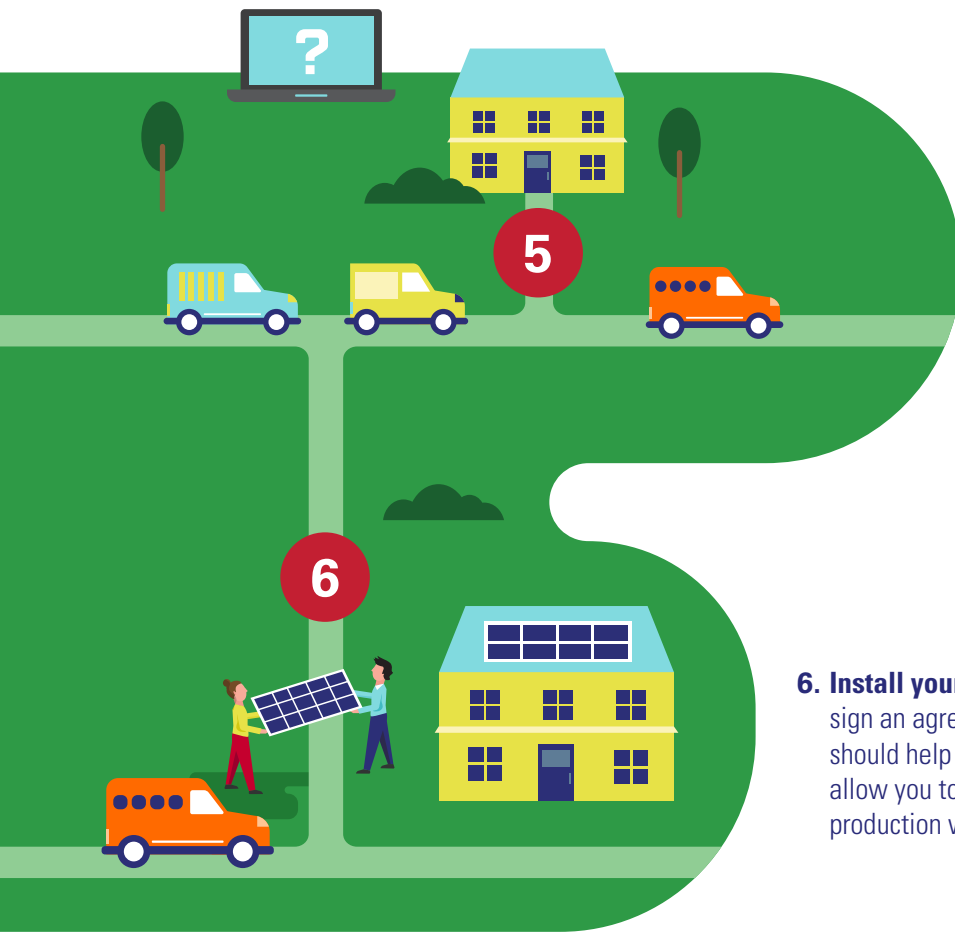
3. Talk to your HOA: If you live in a residence that has a Homeowners Association (HOA), it's important to know if there are restrictions to installing rooftop or ground mount solar. Contact your HOA directly to learn more.

4. Identify financing opportunities: Low-interest loans are available to help homeowners add rooftop or ground mount solar at their home. Contact the Center for Energy and Environment at **612-335-5884** or mnlendingcenter.org.

Take advantage of the Renewable Energy Tax Credit before time runs out!

2019 is the final year for the full 30% Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit, which applies to solar energy projects. The incentive allows you claim a 30% credit on your federal tax return for the costs of the system. Projects must be installed by December 31, 2019 – don't miss your opportunity to take advantage of this tax credit!





SELECT YOUR CONTRACTOR AND INSTALL YOUR SYSTEM

5. Find a qualified contractor: Use the Clean Energy Project Builder online directory to search for qualified solar installers. Contacting more than one installer will help you compare bids and make the best choice. Clean Energy Project Builder also has a list of questions you should ask solar installers. Visit [CleanEnergyProjectBuilder.org](https://www.CleanEnergyProjectBuilder.org).

6. Install your system! Once you select a contractor, you will sign an agreement and install your system. Your contractor should help facilitate the agreement with Xcel Energy to allow you to track your production and get paid for excess production with net metering.

KNOW THE ALTERNATIVES TO INSTALLING YOUR OWN SOLAR PANELS

If your home has low solar potential or the costs are too high to install your own system, you can still source some or all of your electricity from renewable sources. Consider these alternative renewable energy options:

- **Xcel Energy's Windsource®:** Windsource is a renewable energy subscription program that allows residential customers to source some or all of their electricity from wind energy. For about \$5 a month, the average Fridley household can get 100% of its electricity from renewable energy.¹ Sign up [xcelenergy.com/Windsource](https://www.xcelenergy.com/Windsource).
- **Community Solar Gardens:** Community solar gardens are great opportunity for homeowners and renters to subscribe to renewable energy. You will receive a monthly bill credit based on how large your subscription amount is. Visit [CleanEnergyProjectBuilder.org](https://www.CleanEnergyProjectBuilder.org) to find a garden operator and a list of questions to ask before subscribing.

¹ One 100 kilowatt-hour block of renewable energy costs \$1, and the average household in Fridley uses approximately 5 blocks per month.

