

7 Tips for Making Solar Energy Work for You



Solar Optimization Tips



1. Time Your Energy Use

- Run major appliances (washer, dryer, dishwasher) during peak sunlight hours (usually 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)
- Charge electric vehicles and batteries during the day.



2. Use Smart Technology

- Install smart thermostats and smart plugs to automate energy use.
- Use **load controllers** to prioritize solar power for essential appliances.



3. Monitor Your System

- Regularly check your solar monitoring app to track performance.
- Identify and address any dips in production early.



4. Keep Panels Clean and Clear

- Remove debris, dust, or snow from panels to maintain efficiency.
- Trim nearby trees to reduce shading.



5. Upgrade to Energy-Efficient Appliances

- Use ENERGY STAR-rated appliances to reduce overall consumption.
- Replace old HVAC systems and water heaters with high-efficiency models.



6. Consider Battery Storage

- Store excess solar energy for use at night or during outages.
- Reduce reliance on the grid and maximize self-consumption.



7. Use Time-of-Use (TOU) Rates Wisely

Since you are now on TOU pricing, shift energy use to **off-peak hours** when grid electricity is cheaper.