Frequently Asked Questions about Solar PV (photovoltaic) Systems

Q: What size PV system would be best for my home or business?

A: PV system size is limited by the amount of available space you have at your property. You should also consider electrical consumption history when sizing a system.

Q: How much space does a PV system need?

A: Figure about 100 square feet per kW of nominal capacity.

Q: How much does a PV system cost installed?

A: The installed cost can vary depending on the technology and location, but typically costs $5,000—$7,000 per kW.

Q: If I generate more power than I consume, how much will I be paid for my excess energy?

A: Your electric provider will set this rate and it is typically the avoided cost of generation. You may be responsible for metering and billing costs.

Q: Can I use my PV system as a backup during a power outage?

A: Most PV systems are "grid-tied" and therefore only operate when utility power is available.

Q: How long does a PV system last?

A: Solar panels typically last about 20 years while maintaining 80% efficiency.

Q: Can I install a PV system myself?

A: You can, but it is recommended you choose a qualified system installer. Compliance with local building and electrical codes may be required.

Q: Is regular maintenance required for PV systems?

A: Yes, the panels should be cleaned as necessary to remove anything that can block the sun.

Q: Where can I find a qualified, licensed contractor to install my PV system?

A: You should choose an installer that is certified by the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners. http://www.nabcep.org/certified-installer-locator?state=GA

Q: Is there a federal tax credit for residential solar installations?

A: An uncapped 30% federal income tax credit is available to homeowners for solar equipment placed in service before January 1, 2017. Detailed information about this credit can be found at the Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy. http://www.dsireusa.org/

ECG
electric cities of georgia