

How much does it cost to invest in solar panels per kilowatt





Overview

How much does a solar system cost per watt?

As of publishing, the average cost per watt is \$2.84. Most solar companies set the price according to the solar system's wattage. A solar installation's "cost per watt" is a little like the "price per square foot" when you buy a house. It helps compare the value of solar energy systems in different sizes.

How much does a solar panel cost?

From 2010 to 2020, solar panel prices dropped by nearly 90%, with costs per watt falling from approximately \$3.86 to \$0.38 globally (source: IRENA). This decline slowed in recent years but remained consistent. Between 2020 and 2025, residential solar system costs, averaging \$2.50 to \$3.50 per watt in 2025, decreased from \$3 to \$4 per watt in 2020.

How much does a home solar system cost?

According to studies by the U.S. Department of Energy, the all-in cost of a home solar panel system is between \$2.74 to \$3.30 per watt. ^{1,2,12} This figure includes the solar panels, the installation, and other expenses. Using these numbers, an average-sized 8-kilowatt residential solar system would cost between \$21,900 - \$26,400.

How much does it cost to install and manage solar panels?

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