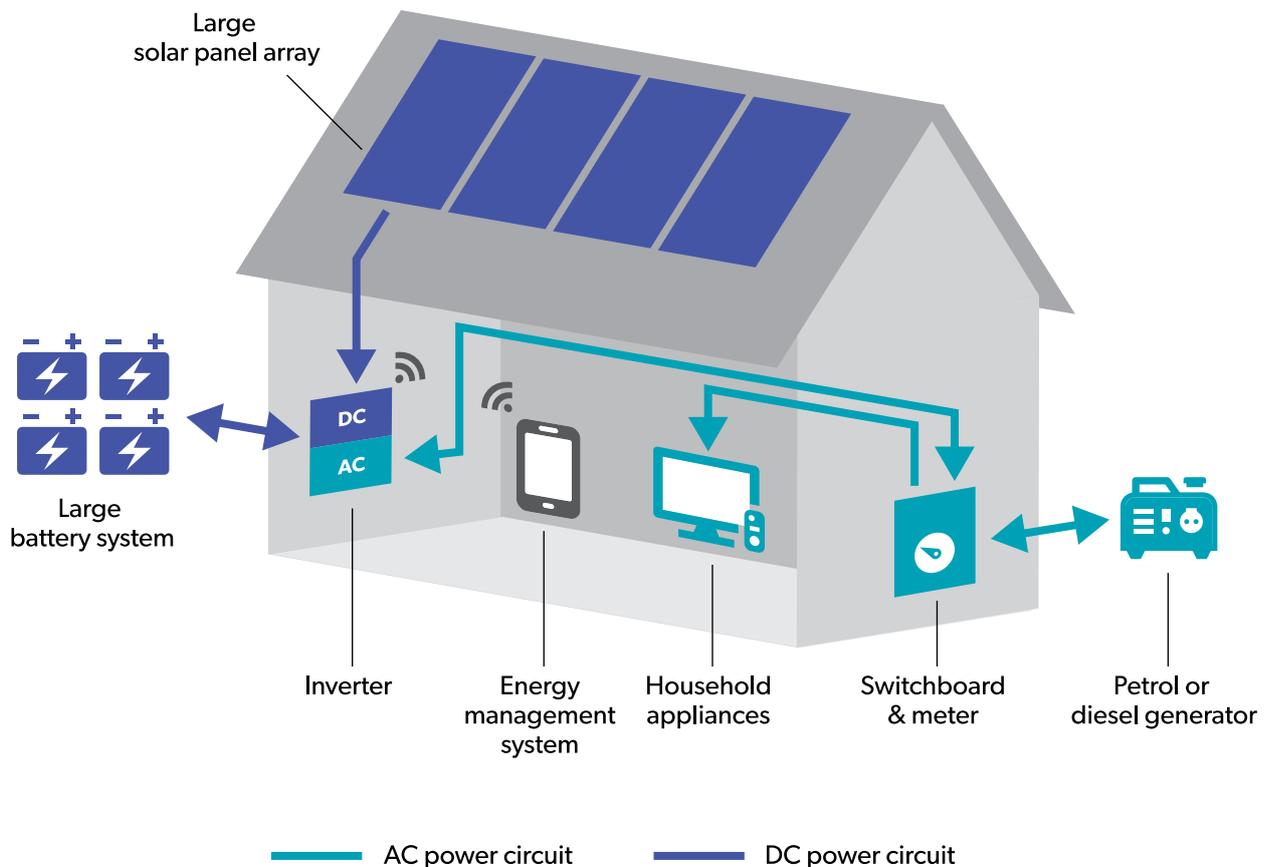


## Should I go offgrid for my electricity?

Offgrid home solar battery systems can give you control over your energy supply, but their cost is usually significantly higher than remaining on the grid. An offgrid system might be a viable alternative for rural properties that are not already grid connected.

### What does an offgrid energy system look like?

An offgrid system differs from a standard system in that it has more solar, a larger battery, and is usually supplemented with a diesel or petrol generator.



### Where going offgrid may make sense now

Going offgrid in an urban area generally does not make financial sense, but there are several potential situations where going offgrid can be beneficial:

- 1 You are building an energy efficient new house in a rural area where there is currently no power line close by and extending the line will be expensive.
- 2 In some remote rural locations, electricity networks may find it more economic to pay isolated households to install solar and a battery than to maintain or replace long power lines.
- 3 On some microgrids—groups of homes or businesses form their own small grid that is not connected to the main grid.



## Why go offgrid?

- ✓ If your new, rural grid connection would be expensive, it can be a viable and cheaper alternative.
- ✓ You can avoid changes in grid electricity prices and fixed charges.
- ✓ You avoid the risk of grid outages.
- ✓ You have the choice and control over which type of power source you use.

## Things to consider

- ⚠ Installing an offgrid system is considerably more expensive than one that is connected to the grid. To go offgrid might cost an average NSW household \$50,000 to \$80,000.
- ⚠ You won't be able to export your excess electricity from your rooftop solar or solar battery back to the grid.
- ⚠ You are responsible for your own security of supply and its costs.
- ⚠ The more people who stay connected to the grid, the more people share the costs of maintaining it.
- ⚠ Staying on grid, you are able to support renewable energy through your grid energy purchases. For example, by buying GreenPower through your retailer.
- ⚠ When selling your home in future, buyers may have energy needs that are different to yours. Reconnecting to the grid can be costly.

## Get what you want while still on the grid

People in urban areas often consider going offgrid because of their desire to support and use 100% renewable energy or to reduce their exposure to power price changes.

You can achieve a mostly renewable power supply while continuing to have access to reliable grid electricity for cloudy days.

Sizing your home solar battery system to supply enough power 80 to 90 percent of the time is a lot more cost-effective than going fully offgrid. It means you can export excess solar energy to the grid and use the battery in an efficient way.

***If you want to have back-up during power outages, make sure you request this from your installer, so they ensure the inverter has that function, including an isolation switch.***



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For more information download the NSW Home Solar Battery Guide from [resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/battery-guide](https://resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/battery-guide).

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