

TOP TIPS FOR SOLAR

- 1. Complete an energy audit, either yourselves or bring in a company to complete this for you. Ensure you record meter readings regularly for as long as possible to obtain a clear picture of how you use energy, this is essential to ensure your system will be fit for purpose.**
- 2. Be careful when taking advice from salespersons (check your system is right for you by using your own readings and talking to others who have already had installs) – remember they could just want to sell you whatever makes them the most money with least work.**
- 3. Establish what your usage is on a daily basis, or what you want to generate and ensure that your system can meet that demand, with an inverter capable of outputting to the level of your peak and sustained usage via batteries or that your system “panels” can meet that demand.**
- 4. Don't let salespeople tell you the maximum you can install is around 3.68kWh - that's not true and can simply be because the company don't want to undertake the additional paperwork involved in applying for G99 to the DNO. (Distribution Network Operator). Remember you must gain permission from the DNO for larger systems!**
- 5. Check what incoming supply you have, ** The DNO / the Grid would usually, on a residential property or small commercial property provide a single phase 100amp supply coming into your property, but on larger premises you may have a 3-phase supply, knowing this will be important for sizing your system correctly. The grid is responsible for how much power can be pushed back into the grid i.e. (Exported Power) from the solar generated power.**
- 6. If your use is greater than 16A / 3.68kWh get DNO approval (G99) to increase your production prior to installing a system and ensure the Panels are not wasted / oversized for your inverter. (i.e if your panels generate far more power than the inverter can cope with that can be a waste).**
- 7. Use batteries with a high storage and output that can store at a minimum whatever your daily usage is while you are closed each night and as much as possible towards your peak load. Storing power produced through the day and releasing it while closed to run appliances has helped us reduce our monthly bills significantly.**
- 8. avoid selling power back to the grid as much as possible, try to store power within your own batteries, for us, we initially sold power to the grid via the SEG for around 3p per kWh, but then when you need to import / buy power back from the grid we could be paying around 50p per kWh, it make much more sense to store your power in batteries and use it later than sell and then repurchase from the grid.**
- 9. Do your research online, look for reviews of companies aftercare, ensuring as far as possible that once your system is installed, you are able to get support when you need it.**
- 9. Finally - ANY renewable energy products will ONLY have a significant impact if your team at your facility get onboard with power saving and make changes to how they use power, try and bring in everyone in your group to help with power saving.**