



*The smartest
way to go solar*

The **Indian Solar Market Aggregation for Rooftops (I-SMART) Program** is a GIZ and MNRE supported initiative to help residents, businesses, and governments take advantage of the range of benefits of rooftop solar. The I-SMART team consists of competitively selected expert consultants with domestic and international experience in growing rooftop solar markets, as well as thousands of I-SMART volunteers across Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

Rooftop solar can significantly lower electricity expenses for residences and businesses and can provide other benefits such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting the achievement of sustainability goals and RPO requirements. The I-SMART team of professionals and volunteers helping consumers realize these benefits by easing the process of going solar.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How does demand aggregation for residential work?

Demand aggregation, or group purchasing, for rooftop solar is a way of attracting competitive pricing for rooftop solar by aggregating rooftop solar potential across several customers in order to increase the scale of projects and lower transaction costs for solar developers. By coordinating between these customers and qualified installers, the I-SMART program simultaneously minimizes the customer's burden of navigating the process of purchasing rooftop solar and reduces the customer acquisition burden for developers.

How much does rooftop solar cost?

The average cost of grid connected rooftop solar systems is about Rs. 80 per watt or Rs. 8.0 crore per MWp capacity. The exact cost of a rooftop solar project will depend on the rooftop space and unique design requirements needed for each customer. I-SMART will help customers get the best deal on their rooftop solar system while ensuring systems meet high quality standards for design and installation.

How do I access credit to install rooftop solar?

The Department of Financial Services has instructed all Public Sector Banks (PSBs) to make credit available for residential rooftop solar projects through the Home Loan/Home Improvement Loan lending mechanism. Visit the I-SMART website for more information on available financing options.



What is Net Metering?

Net metering allows a DISCOM customer to be billed based on the electricity consumed from the grid net of electricity fed back into the grid from a solar rooftop system. This means that if a rooftop system generates more electricity in a given period than the total electricity consumed from the grid, it generates credits that can count toward future electricity bills or sold back to the DISCOM at a predetermined rate.

How much could I save by going solar?

The average savings generated by going solar will depend on several factors, including the size of the system, solar radiation, the quality of the system, and the cost of purchasing or leasing equipment. The payback period for a residence with a rooftop solar PV system with a 1-10kWp capacity is approximately 6-7 years.

What operations and maintenance does a solar electric system require?

Rooftop solar is relatively low-maintenance as there are few moving parts, requiring less operations and maintenance (O&M) costs than many traditional energy systems. However, solar systems may require annual maintenance to ensure that the system is operating efficiently and reliably. O&M activities may include cleaning, inspection, monitoring and safety, the method of implementing them will be determined by the ownership model (i.e., third-party or direct).

How do I know if my site is suitable?

A suitable solar site requires a range of factors, including a large, open and flat rooftop area that is south facing and unobstructed by objects that may cause shading (e.g., trees). For context, a grid-connected 1kWp rooftop solar system that is free of shade requires approximately 10m² of rooftop area and will generate approximately 4-5 units per day. After connecting with a qualified installer through the I-SMART program, you will receive an on-site feasibility assessment to determine if your rooftop is suitable.

How do find the right installer?

Only installations completed by installers empaneled by MNRE will be eligible to receive subsidies. To find a list of empaneled installers in your state, visit the I-SMART website. After registering interest with the I-SMART program, you will have the option of being contacted by empaneled installers or selecting the installers you would be interested in working with. If you have any questions on how to choose the best installer, our trained I-SMART volunteers can help!

I'm interested in rooftop solar! What are the next steps?

Visit www.iSMARTsolar.in to register your interest and the I-SMART team will help connect you with qualified rooftop solar installers in your area.

Get Started at www.iSMARTsolar.in

Questions?

Please feel free to reach out to us in case of any queries. We will try our best to solve the issues swiftly.

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