



Top 3 Considerations When Choosing an Electricity Provider in Texas

Texas is one of twelve U.S. states that doesn't require electricity providers to credit solar owners for the excess electricity they export to the grid.

However, **solar owners who live in a retail choice market can shop around** for the electricity provider that best suits them—and that helps them maximize their solar electricity savings!

Here are **three questions to consider** when selecting the provider that's best for you:

1. What type of plan do they offer?

The type of plan you choose **will impact your solar savings**.

Nine retail electricity providers offer solar buyback plans, to **credit you for excess electricity** you produce and send out to the grid. Other plans may not buy back your solar, but depending on your energy use and production patterns, they might still be a good fit for you.

Here are four common plan types:

<p>Real-time wholesale This type of plan gives you variable solar buyback rates that fluctuate in real time with wholesale electricity rates.</p>	<p>Standard (no buyback) Some providers don't offer a credit for excess electricity (this isn't always a bad thing).</p>
<p>One-to-one (1:1) This type of plan mimics net metering. It provides a kilowatt-hour (kWh) credit for solar energy you export to the grid, at a rate equal to the rate you pay for using a kWh from the grid.</p>	<p>Partial buyback These plans will buy back any solar kilowatt-hours (kWh) you put on to the grid but at a lower rate than what you pay for using kilowatt-hours from the grid.</p>

2. When do you use energy, and when do you produce it?

The patterns of when you *use* energy and when you *produce* energy can change the value of your solar.

Are you a solar owner who uses most of the energy you generate at the time your panels produce it? If so, a standard (no solar buyback) or a real-time wholesale plan will likely maximize your solar savings.

However, if you export at least 40 to 60% as much energy as you import, a 1:1 plan might be your best bet.

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Because the Texas grid has a very low reserve margin, when demand for electricity is high, costs can skyrocket.

That means that the value of your solar energy can also depend on the time of day that you use and produce energy, relative to when other consumers are using energy. It's important to keep this in mind when shopping for a provider. For example, some plans offer free nights and weekends, which can benefit some solar owners.

3. Do you want help to figure this out?

Are you overwhelmed by all the choices and want help making sure you select the best provider?

Get help from a nonprofit whose mission is to represent the needs of solar owners like you. We have your best interest in mind, and we're here to help.

We've teamed up with Texas Power Guide to give you a free tool that will help you figure out which electricity provider will maximize your solar savings.

This free report will provide you with a comparison of the available providers, fully customized based on your system size, electricity use, and more.

Request your free report today:

SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/TXreport

It could save you hundreds of dollars every year.

Electric Plan Analysis for
John Smith
 Houston, TX

Solar System Size: 8 kW
 HVAC: Smart/WiFi
 Pool: None
 Electric Vehicle(s): None

Grid-Level Energy Usage

Your electric bill depends on how much grid energy you import (consume) versus export (supply), and when. Some plans set prices and track usage annually; others every 15 minutes.

Tip: Minimizing peak-time usage reduces pollution and can save you money.

Category	Your	Average	Texas	Home
Net	82	1,726	2,645	
Power (kW)	2,694	<<	8,130	
Nights	3,862	4,507		

Analysis Methodology
 For your latest 12 months' usage, we calculated and ranked your annual energy plus delivery costs for hundreds of current electric plans... (See next page for results)

Electric Plan Comparison - Sep 2020

For your usage, here's how your annual bill compares for the cheapest plans versus others:

Retailer	Plan Name	Terms (mo)	ETR	Rate Type	Base Rate /mo	Import /kWh	Export /kWh	Annual Bill
Direct Energy	Freedom Hour Power	12	1008	Time-of-Use	\$9.95	13.2kWh	Free by the...	\$1,234
griddy	Griddy Data	0	Indexed	\$9.99	RTW+TDU	RTW		\$1,311.1
NOW POWER	Free Power Nights	12	1008	Time-of-Use		11.0kWh	Free by the...	\$1,500
PowerChoice	Solar Home	12	1000	Fixed	\$4.95	9.0kWh	5.0kWh	\$1,589
PowerChoice	Texas Solar Home	12	1000	Fixed	\$4.95	4.0kWh	6.3kWh	\$1,793
CHERRYDT	Free Solar	12	100	Fixed	\$4.95	4.0kWh	6.6kWh	\$1,795
MID ENERGY	Solar Rewards	24	Indexed		4.7kWh	RTW		\$1,861.1
reliant	Renewable Rewards	12	Fixed		14.9kWh	14.9kWh		\$1,138
reliant	Single Meter Self Back	12	1000	Fixed		18.9kWh	15.9kWh	\$1,271
TXU	Renewable Business	24	1000	Fixed	\$9.95	14.9kWh	11.9kWh	\$2,346

Notes & Definitions

ETR: An Early Termination Fee for quitting your contract more than 14 days early (unless you move).

Rate: "Fixed" rates guarantee the same pricing terms for each month of the contract.

Time: "Time-of-Day" plans charge preferential rates for usage during peak vs. non-peak hours.

Indexed: Rates vary with indices like the wholesale price of electricity or natural gas.

Base Rate: A monthly fee to cover administrative or other non-usage based costs.

Import /kWh: The rate you pay for each kWh of electricity you consume from the grid.

Export /kWh: The credit you earn for each excess kWh of electricity you supply to the grid.

TDU: Your Transmission and Distribution Utility (Centerpoint) currently charges \$4.38/kWh + 4.23 U/kWh.

RTW: Real-Time Wholesale electric rates vary every 5 minutes and are NOT guaranteed, so Annual Bill applies the trailing 12-month price history for reference only. [Click for more details.](#)

This report brought to you by Solar United Neighbors and powered by Texas Power Guide. Questions? Please contact tfelam@solarunitedneighbors.org

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