

# POWER YOUR HOME WITH SOLAR ENERGY

## Residential Solar Checklist

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Reduce the amount of energy your home uses by increasing your home's energy efficiency. Signing up for a Home Energy Squad® visit is a great way to identify energy-saving improvements. During your visit you will receive free energy-saving installations such as: LED light bulbs, a programmable thermostat, door weather stripping, and more. Visits also include a blower door test to measure for air leaks, an insulation inspection, a safety check on your heating system, and help with next steps.

Visit [xcelenergy.com/HomeEnergySquad](https://www.xcelenergy.com/HomeEnergySquad) or call **612-328-6220**.

### START PLANNING

#### 1. Determine your home's solar potential:

It's important to consider your home's solar potential before deciding if installing solar panels is right for you. You can get a sense of your solar potential by using the Minnesota Solar Suitability App. Visit [mn.gov/SolarApp](https://mn.gov/SolarApp).

#### 2. Talk to the City:

It's important to talk to the City about your project in case special permissions are required. Contact Planning and Zoning officials at **612-861-9760** or email [com\\_dev@richfieldmn.gov](mailto:com_dev@richfieldmn.gov).

#### 3. Talk to your HOA:

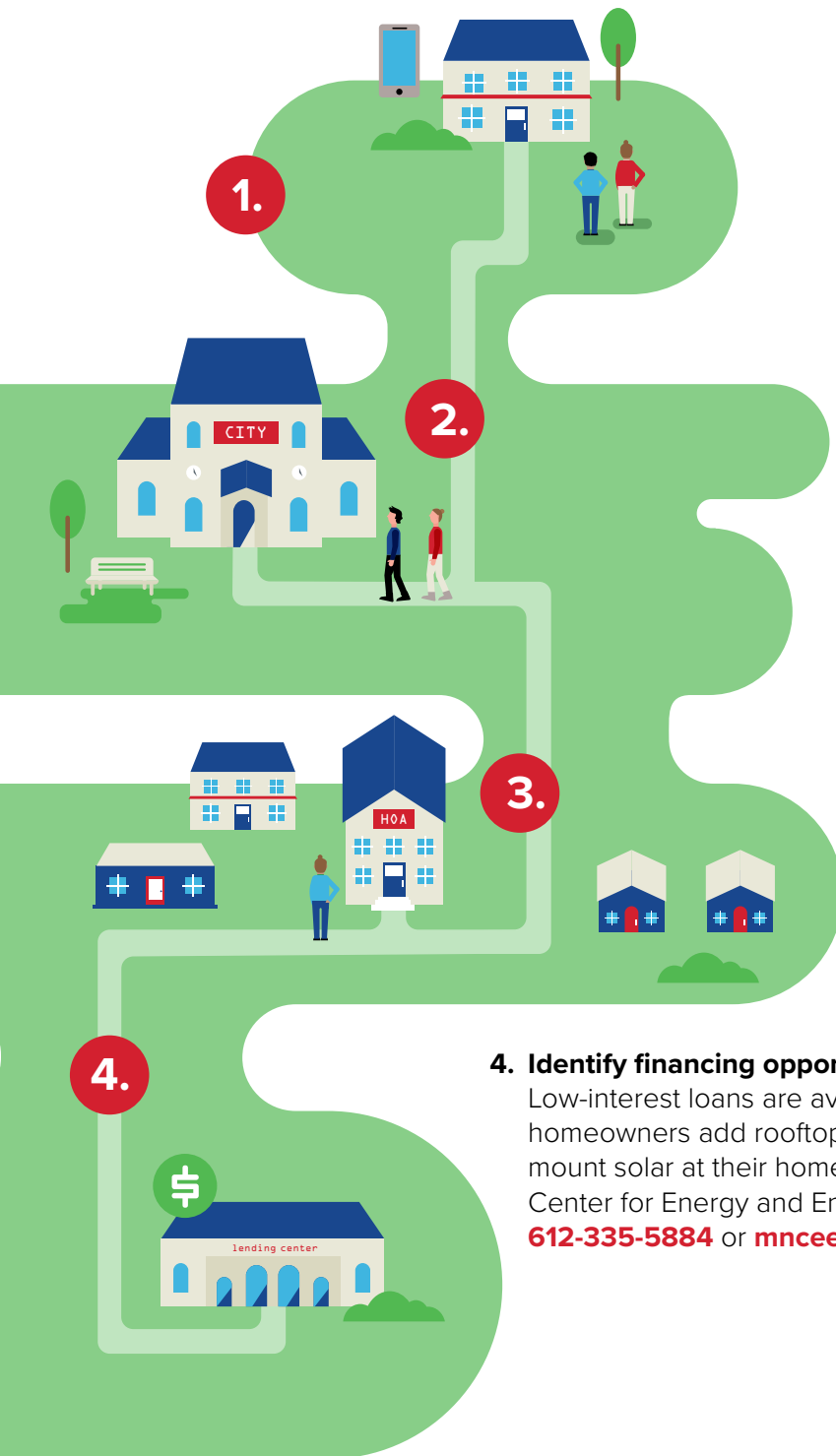
If you live in a residence that has a Homeowners Association (HOA), it's important to know if there are restrictions to installing rooftop or ground mount solar. Contact your HOA directly to learn more.

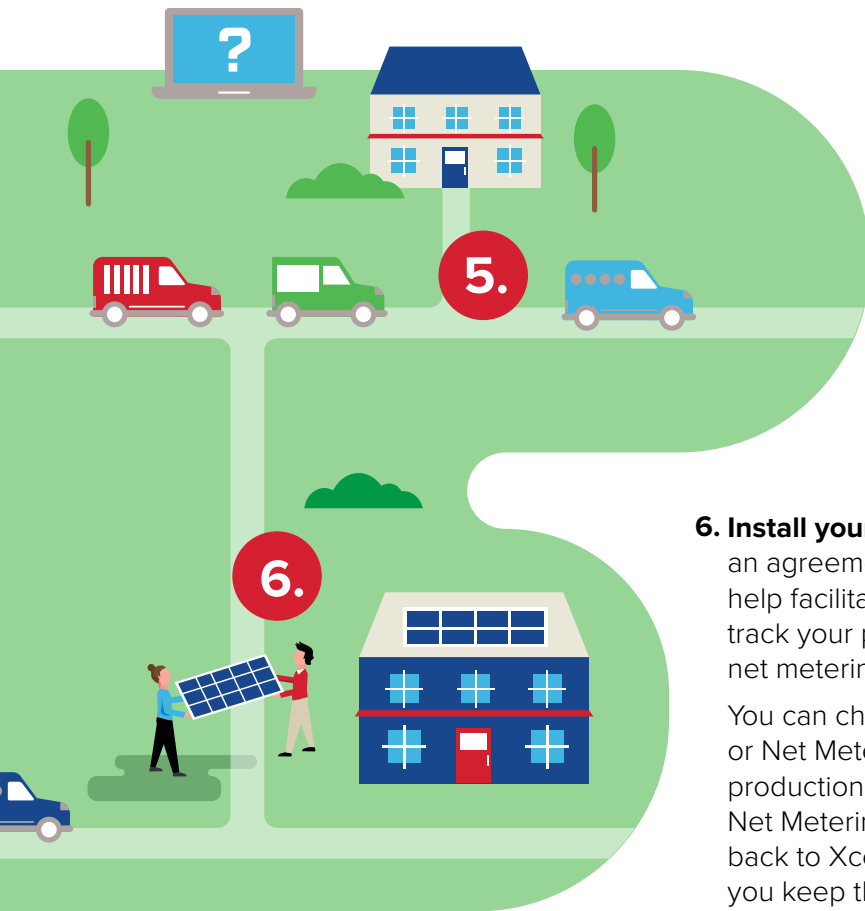
#### 4. Identify financing opportunities:

Low-interest loans are available to help homeowners add rooftop or ground mount solar at their home. Contact the Center for Energy and Environment **612-335-5884** or [mncee.org/Loans](https://mncee.org/Loans).

### Take advantage of the Renewable Energy Tax Credit

If your project qualifies, you may be able to claim up to a 30% credit on your federal tax return for systems installed in 2022-2032. Talk to a tax professional to confirm if your project qualifies and don't miss this opportunity!





## SELECT YOUR CONTRACTOR AND INSTALL YOUR SYSTEM

**5. Find a qualified contractor:** Use Clean Energy Resource Teams' Solar Directory to search for qualified solar installers. Contacting more than one installer will help you compare bids and make the best choice.

Visit [cleanenergyresourceteams.org/Directory](https://cleanenergyresourceteams.org/Directory).

**6. Install your system!** Once you select a contractor, you will sign an agreement and install your system. Your contractor should help facilitate the agreement with Xcel Energy to allow you to track your production and get paid for excess production with net metering.

You can choose to apply in either Xcel Energy's Solar\*Rewards® or Net Metering programs. With Solar\*Rewards, annual production incentives are paid to the owner of the solar system. Net Metering allows you to sell the excess energy you produce back to Xcel Energy, but there is no production incentive and you keep the Renewable Energy Credits.

## KNOW THE ALTERNATIVES TO INSTALLING YOUR OWN SOLAR PANELS

If your home has low solar potential or the costs are too high to install your own system, you can still source some or all of your electricity from renewable sources. Learn more about these options at [xcelenergy.com/Renewables](https://xcelenergy.com/Renewables).

- **Xcel Energy's Windsource®:** Windsource is a renewable energy subscription program that allows residential customers to source some or all of their electricity from wind energy. For about an additional \$10 a month, the average Richfield household can get 100% of its electricity from renewable energy!<sup>1</sup>
- **Community Solar Gardens:** Community solar gardens are great opportunity for homeowners and renters to subscribe to renewable energy. You will receive a monthly bill credit based on how large your subscription amount is.

<sup>1</sup> One 100 kilowatt-hour block of renewable energy costs approximately an incremental \$1, and the average household in Richfield uses approximately 10 blocks (1,000 kilowatt-hours) per month.

