

Buying vs Leasing Fact Sheet

According to Consumer Reports (<https://www.consumerreports.org/energy-saving/real-cost-of-leasing-vs-buying-solar-panels/>), people who lease their solar systems save far less than those who buy them outright or with a loan.

Topic	You own the system	Leasing Company owns the system
Tax Credits	You own the Federal and State tax credits.	Leasing Company takes Federal and State Tax Credits.
Incentives (state and/or utility)	You claim the incentives.	Leasing Company takes the incentives.
Utility bill credits	Your bill is credited with all solar production, effectively lowering or doing away with your bill.	In most cases, Leasing Company only credits your bill for a portion of your solar production.
Selling your home	Add value to the sale transaction, typically @4% added value.	Original owner must pay lease or arrange for new owner to assume the lease. In some cases, the solar is removed at additional cost.
Return on investment	With current incentives, typically 5 to 7 years so you begin to make money once the tax credits plus incentives and the total bill credits equal your investment.	Zero