

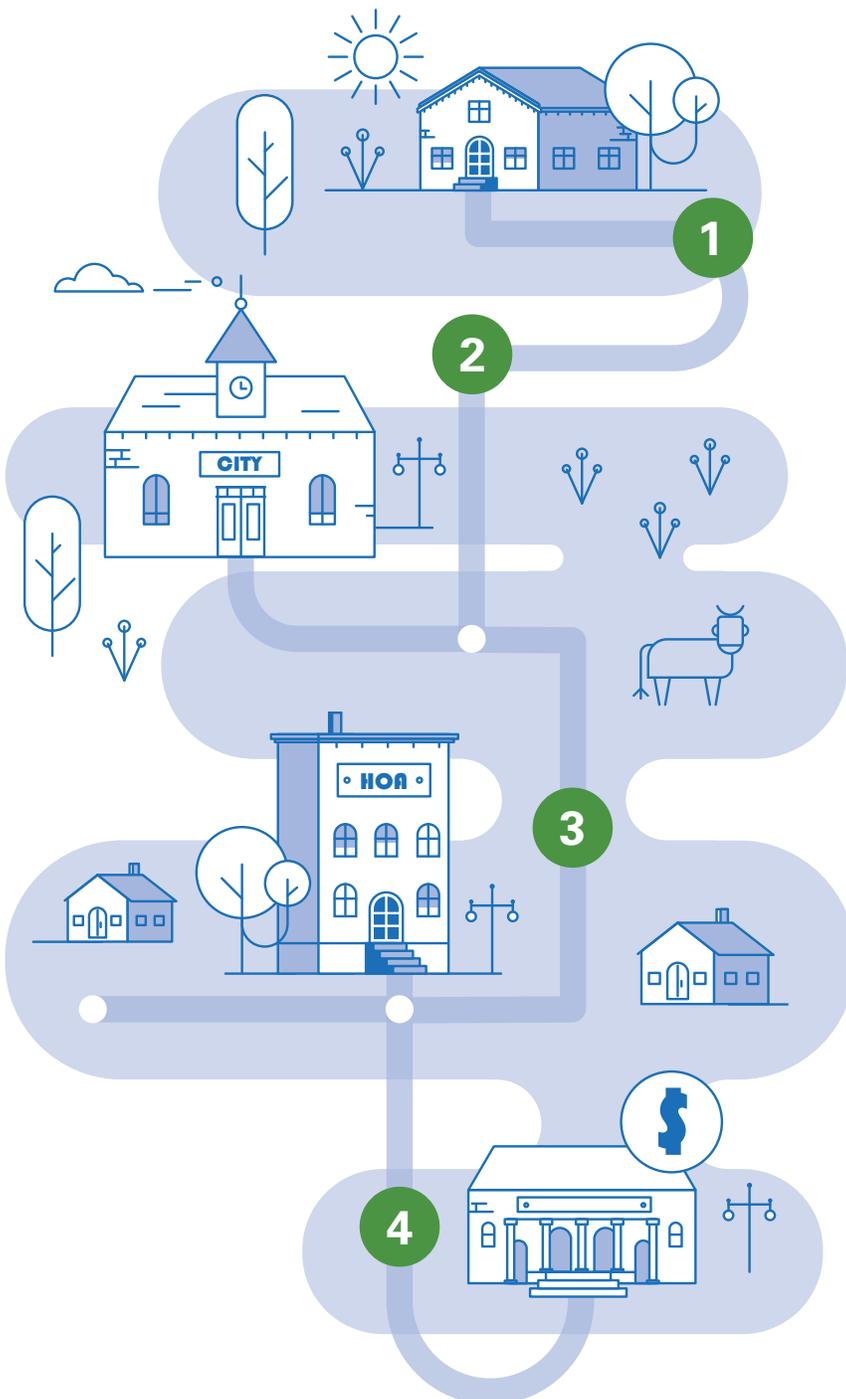
Power your home with solar energy

Residential Solar Checklist

Before you begin

Reduce the amount of energy your homes 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 an in-home visit you will receive free energy-saving installations such as: LED light bulbs, a programmable thermostat, door weather stripping, and more. Virtual visits are available and free to Northfield residents to help you safely learn more about your home's energy use.

Visit HomeEnergySquad.net or call **651-328-6220**.



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.

2. Talk to the City:

Solar panels that are attached to your principal structure are allowed. Your solar installer is required to pull a building permit from the City of Northfield, and be inspected by Rice County's electrical inspector.

Call **507-645-3004** to talk to the City of Northfield about the process.

3. Talk to your HOA:

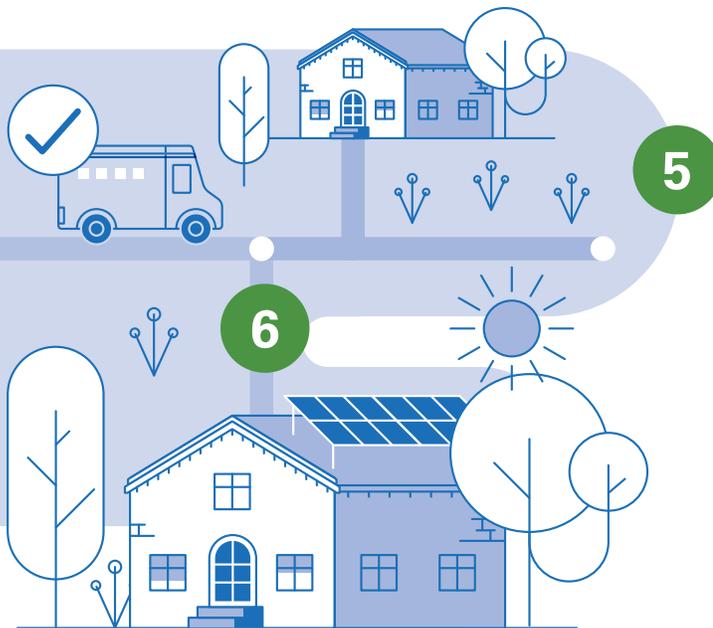
If you live in a residence that has a Homeowners Association (HOA), it's important to know if there are restrictions to installing rooftop or ground mount solar. Contact your HOA directly to learn more.

4. Identify financing opportunities:

Low-interest loans are available to help homeowners add rooftop or ground mount solar at their home.

Contact the Minnesota Lending Center at **612-335-5884** or mnlendingcenter.org.

Select your contractor and install your system



- 5. Find a qualified contractor:** Use Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association's online directory to search for qualified solar installers. Contacting more than one installer will help you compare bids and make the best choice.

Visit MnSEIA.org/find-installer.

- 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.

Xcel Energy Programs

Solar*Rewards® is an incentivized program where you receive monthly payments in exchange for the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) for the energy produced. If your system produces more energy than you need, the extra energy is added to the grid and you receive a bill credit.

Net Metering is a non-incentivized program where you retain the RECs and can register or claim the REC. If your system produces more energy than you need, the extra energy is added to the grid and you receive a bill credit.

In most cases, your contractor will facilitate the application for Solar*Rewards. You can also create and manage your own application at xcelenergy.com/Solar.

Take advantage of the Renewable Energy Tax Credit before time runs out!

The Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit is a tax incentive that allows you claim a 26% credit on your federal tax return for the costs of the system. Projects must be installed by December 31, 2020—don't miss your opportunity to take advantage of this tax credit!

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. Consider these alternative renewable energy options:

- **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 less than \$10 a month, the average Northfield household can get 100% of its electricity from renewable energy.¹ Sign up xcelenergy.com/Windsource.
- **Solar*Rewards Community:** 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. Visit xcelenergy.com/SolarRewardsCommunity to find a garden operator and list of FAQs when subscribing to a garden.

¹ One 100 kilowatt-hour block of renewable energy costs \$1, and the average household in Northfield uses approximately 7 blocks per month.

