

All about your home's PV solar panels

great
places
HOUSING GROUP

What are PV panels?

Photovoltaic (PV) solar panels convert daylight into electricity. Usually mounted on roofs, they work best when they face south. They have a thin layer of semi-conduction material that generates an electrical charge when exposed to daylight.

Do the PVs need sunshine?

No, they still work on cloudy days and even rainy days. Clear, cold days are best. On very warm days the panels don't work quite as well. They are very popular in Germany where the weather is similar to here.

How do they work?

Electricity generated by PV panels during daylight hours is combined with electricity from your supplier coming in from the mains to power the appliances in your home. If your panel generates more electricity than you use, the surplus is sent to the national grid. At night you use your mains electricity as normal.

Why install them at my home?

We would like all of our residents to benefit from the electricity produced by solar panels. Unfortunately, not all our homes are suitable for PVs. If we have fitted PVs, it means your home is angled in the right direction to generate enough electricity.

What do I get?

Panels provide some free electricity in daylight hours, saving you money and helping the environment. The panels make no noise, they don't move and they need hardly any maintenance from Great Places.

What happens if there is a power cut?

Your panels are connected to the national grid. If there is a power cut they will go off automatically. If you turn your electricity off manually, or your pre-payment meter runs out of credit, the panels will switch off too.

What if my panels produce more energy than I need?

Whenever your panels produce extra electricity, it will flow back into the grid so no electricity is wasted.

Can I sell the electricity I make?

No. Any surplus will be sold to the Homes and Communities Agency which funds the construction of new homes. Money will be used to help finance future developments like this one.

Do the panels need looking after?

Rain will keep the panels clean but if they should get dirty or dusty, we will clean them.

How long will they last?

25 years or more.

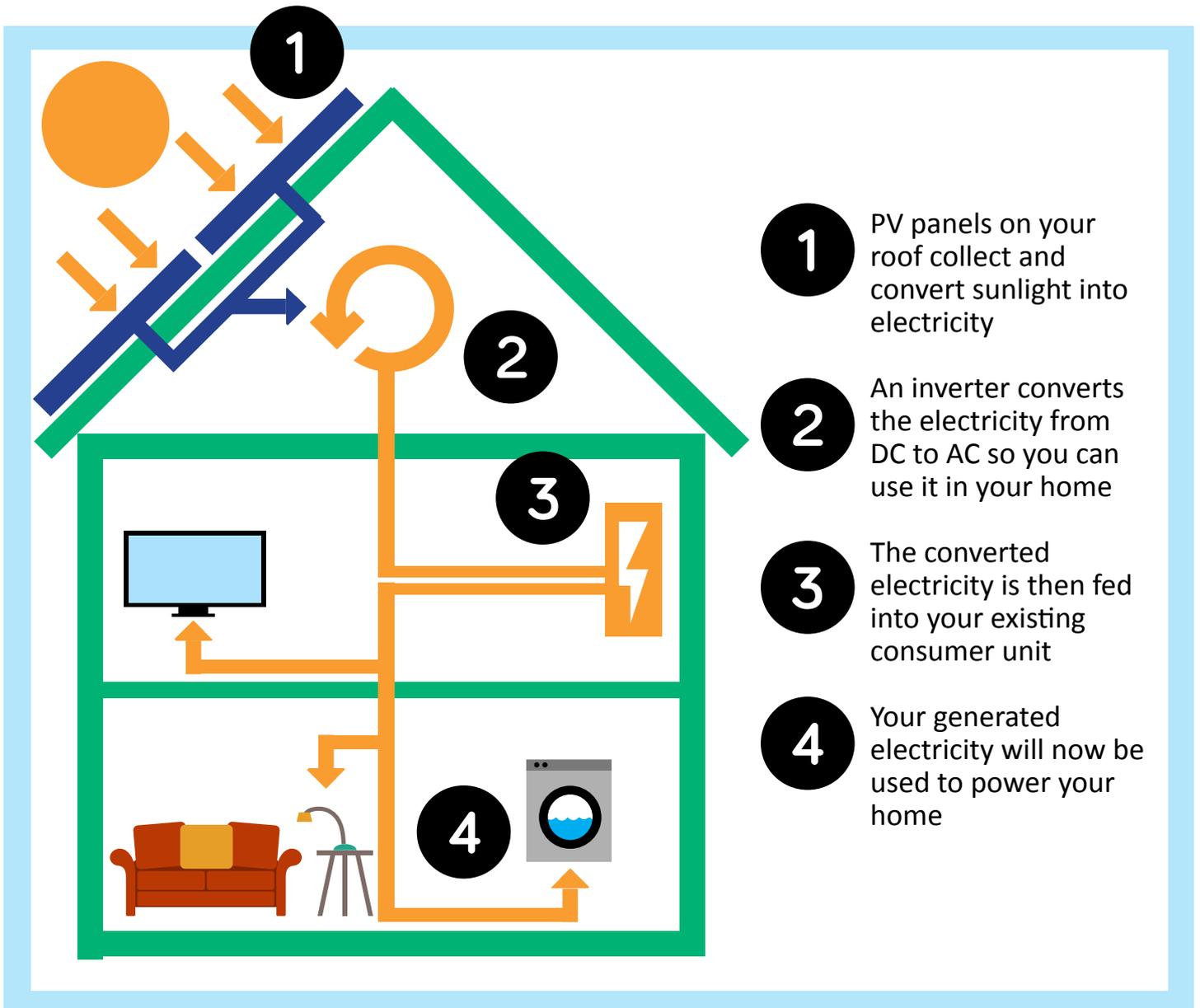
How do I use the panels?

A member of staff from Great Places will go through a Home Energy Questionnaire. This should take about half an hour to complete and will give us an idea of the electricity usage in your home and monitor any changes from having the panels installed. We will explain to you how best to use the panels to get the most savings from them.

What happens next?

Nothing! You can use your panels straight away.

How PV solar panels work



Quick guide to your annual energy use

Background television, general daytime use - £37 a year

Washing machine, used five times a week - £32 a year

LCD TV, switched on eight hours a day - £102 a year

X-Box / PS4, switched on eight hours a day - £102 a year

Desktop PC, switched on eight hours a day - £102 a year

Laptop, switched on eight hours a day - £18 a year

Dishwasher, used five times a week - £32 a year