

CATCH THE SUN WITH A SOLAR ASSIST!

Solar Assist provides technologies that can help move you towards dependence on the sun instead of conventional energy sources. We have been serving the needs of western Oregon residences and businesses since 1994 and have hundreds of quality installations and satisfied customers. We are proud that we receive very high marks from utilities during inspections. We work for you to arrive at the best solution for your home or businesses energy design whether it includes our products or a combination of our products and others products that we don't offer but recommend. We emphasize efficiency steps and highly encourage you to pursue efficiency measures before or during an installation of solar technologies. Through team work with our inspired distributors, manufacturers, builders, designers and customers, we promote sustainable development, economic vitality and the conservation of our natural resources.

The direct solar technologies we offer are solar electric and solar water heating that utilize the sun's energy by intercepting the sun rays with roof top solar panels that generate electricity or heat water and thereby reduce your home's energy load. While one system is electrical and the other is plumbing we find they are allied arts and have many design parameters in common. We endeavor to direct our customers towards the technology that suits them best. Often we install combo systems, capturing both electricity and hot water from the sun.

Solar Electric systems come in a variety of configurations from simple Grid-Tie with no batteries, to a Grid Back-up system capable of supporting some critical loads if the power goes out. Off Grid systems, of course, serve the needs of people beyond the reach of the Power Grid.

Solar Electric system components have continued to be refined for high efficiency, automatic operation, and long life and can spin your meter back-wards so you get credit even if you aren't home. Any excess power will go to your neighbors and you'll get credit for it on your bill.

Solar Water Heating systems come in a variety of configurations as well, including the most predominant solar domestic water heater and others such as pools and space heating. While these technologies have been around for over a century, refinements continue to increase their reliability and performance.

Incentives are available primarily for solar technologies from a multitude of sources and more detail and examples are given in the INCENTIVES section of our site. Since incentives from Federal and State governments, as well as utilities, are key to making solar technologies more affordable we can explain the ins and the outs of all the programs and forms. Securing these helpful benefits will help keep you on budget.

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Radiant floor heating is the most comfortable heating system to live with while being very efficient too. Gentle heat radiating from the floor and surrounding surfaces make you feel like your bathed in sunshine. These systems can use conventional energy sources or solar derived energy sources. While solar hot water technology can be utilized for space heating we typically recommend a strong focus on passive solar methods in the design process well before you build. If radiant heat is utilized it's heat can be supplied by a high efficiency water heater, boiler or an air source or ground source heat pump.

We are blessed with cloud cover much of the winter which keeps our lands lush, but also keeps the heat in, preventing extremely low outdoor temperatures such as what's experienced in Bend. Our clouds also prevent great amounts of direct solar radiation, available at other times of the year, from serving a majority of our heating needs in the deep of winter.

Some direct solar heat can be captured by collectors and directed to heat the house but in western Oregon a heat pump is your best solar source. Since more than 50% of the heat they deliver comes from the solar heat stored in the air or ground these heating technologies should be relabeled "solar air source heat pumps" and "solar ground source heat pumps". Electricity makes them hum, solar energy is what they deliver to the house.

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