

# **Are Solar Panels Worth It in NZ? Here's the Truth in 2025**

# WORTH IT



**With rising energy costs and growing climate concerns, more Kiwis are asking the big question: Are solar panels really worth it in New Zealand? Short answer? Yes—if you care about saving money, gaining energy independence, and reducing your carbon footprint. But let's dig into the facts.**

## **Why More New Zealanders Are Turning to Solar**

New Zealand might be known for its lush landscapes, but it also has **abundant sunlight**, especially in regions like Nelson, Bay of Plenty, and Canterbury. In fact, most areas receive **over 2,000 hours of sunlight per year**, making solar power a smart and accessible option.

## **The Economic Payoff: How Much Can You Save?**

Solar isn't just good for the planet—it's good for your **wallet**.

- **Average system cost:** Around \$8,000–\$12,000 for a 3kW–5kW system
- **Payback period:** Typically 3-5 years, depending on your usage and location
- **Lifetime savings:** Up to **\$30,000** over 25+ years
- **Return on investment (ROI):** Around **10–12% annually**, tax-free

Add in **solar buy-back rates** from power companies, and your system can actually **earn you money** by feeding surplus electricity back to the grid.

## **What About NZ's Weather?**

Contrary to the myth, solar panels **don't need direct sunlight** all the time to work. They function even on cloudy days—just at a reduced output. NZ's long daylight hours and mild climate are actually ideal for solar efficiency and system longevity.

## **Is There Government Support?**

While New Zealand doesn't currently offer national rebates like Australia, some councils offer **low-interest loans** or **rates-based financing**. Plus, you **save GST on installation** when bundled into new home builds or renovations.

## **Battery or No Battery?**

Adding a battery (like the Tesla Powerwall or BYD) increases your independence and can protect you during blackouts. While it adds cost upfront, it's a game-changer for:

- Off-grid living
- Night-time energy use
- Resilience during power outages

Think of it as a **future-proofing upgrade**.

## **The Environmental Impact**

- The average solar system offsets **3–4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually**
- Over its life, that's like **planting 400+ trees**
- Your home becomes part of the **solution**, not the problem

## **So... Are Solar Panels Worth It in NZ?**

**Absolutely.** If you want to beat rising power prices, reduce your climate impact, and take control of your energy use, solar in NZ is one of the smartest investments you can make in 2025.

**Thinking about going solar?** Talk to The Plug Electrical to get a free quote tailored to your home, lifestyle, and goals.