

Step Into Solar!

Step 1

Preliminary Self Assessment

The Preliminary Self Assessment will determine the homeowner's objectives for the Photovoltaic (PV) system:

- o Perform an energy audit and learn about your energy usage (energy.gov/energysaver/home-energy-audits).
- o Determine if opportunities exist for energy conservation or energy efficiency and implement them (energy.gov/energysaver/energy-saver).
- o Determine how much you would like to decrease your electric bill or how much clean energy you would like to generate with a PV system. Use the Florida Solar Energy Center website to assist (fsec.ucf.edu/en/consumer/solar_electricity).
- o Determine your budget and research potential incentives and rebates.
 - Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency® (dsireusa.org).
 - Coral Gables Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program (coralgables.com/sustainability).

Step 2

Choose a Contractor

When choosing a contractor, focus on:

- o Experience in installing grid-connected PV or grid-independent (stand-alone) systems.
- o Proper state and county licensing and insurance.
- o A proposal should contain cost of system, components, scope of work, performance expectations, schedule, maintenance requirements and warranty.

Step 3

Site Assessment

Site Assessment is usually done by a contractor for a proposal:

- o Verify customer needs and expectations.
- o Determine solar equipment size and type, address any obstructions.
- o Determine array location with adequate area, tilt and azimuth, ground or roof.
- o Determine the roof type, age, condition, and type of supporting structure for a roof mount system.
- o Verify the electric system, ratings and yearly kWh usage.
- o Determine PV system component locations, and connect/disconnect locations.

Step 4

Sign Contract with Contractor



A photograph of a residential roof with several rows of blue solar panels. The roof has a reddish-brown tile pattern. In the background, there are green trees and a clear blue sky.

Step 5

Obtain Permits from City

Your contractor is responsible for getting the necessary building permits needed for your installation. Permitting time and procedures may vary depending upon the size and complexity of the system. The process involves review by the Coral Gables Board of Architects plus plan reviews and site inspections by the Building Division. City permit fees are waived for solar panel installations.

Step 6

Install the PV system

Once permits are issued, and panels and other system components (racks, inverters, etc.) have been delivered, your contractor will commence with installation of the system. Remember that a building inspector will come and inspect the installation at different stages of completion.

Step 7

Get Connected

Complete the FPL Net metering agreement (Rule 25-6.065). FPL will install a smart meter and let you know when you can turn on your system. This meter will measure the difference between the energy used by your household and the energy that your solar system has produced.

Step 8

Enjoy

Enjoy being an environmental steward by reducing your carbon footprint. Also, enjoy paying your electricity company less money each month.

Feel free to review Miami-Dade's Solar System Guidelines, Disclosure Form, and Roof Permit Forms at:
miamidade.gov/permits/forms-checklists.asp

Visit coralgables.com/sustainability for additional information on Sustainable Coral Gables.