

Interested in generating power from rooftop or ground-mounted solar panels? Don't want to call salespeople until you have reason to see your property as a good candidate for solar? While *every* situation is different, the following considerations will give you an *indication* as to whether solar power might make sense in *your* situation:

1. Do [deed restrictions or Preservation District or Historic District rules](#) apply? (If so and if your project otherwise makes sense, consider requesting a variance.)
2. Is your roof suitable? Most “flat” commercial roofs are ideal. (Racks can sit on membrane roofing without punctures.) Residential-style roofs tend to be more complicated. Hip roofs’ triangular faces may have room for too few panels. Dormers, plumbing vents and/or skylights may be in the way. A garage or carport roof or open ground can be your better option. See lots of examples of suitable sites in this Dr. Suess-style video, entitled, “[Oh, the Places Solar Panels’ll Go!](#)”
3. Solar panels ideally face within 30° of due south. Nearby structures and trees shouldn't create much shade (you can trim or remove-and-replace *your* trees, but not likely your neighbor's trees!). Get an *approximate* idea of whether your roof receives enough solar insolation¹ via these address-based web tools:^{2,3}
 - a. [Google Sunroof](#)—This site shows insolation only on the main roof, not out-building roofs or open ground. It doesn't see roof geometry, dormers or penetrations well, but does account for the sun's varying angles and hours of insolation over the course of a year.
 - b. [Google Earth](#)—This site helps you to see how trees and nearby structures impact insolation.
4. Check how much electrical service your structure has. (Homes usually need at least 200 amps; commercial installations may be required to have much more.)
5. Sign up for a Louisville CAN B4UBuy—Going Solar workshop or gather a group of other interested folks and schedule one. See <https://www.louisvillecan.org/events> or request a new date [here](#).

¹ “Insolation” is fancy word for sunshine.

² The Emerald Ash Borer is killing once plentiful Ash trees quickly. If you see excessive shade, check to see if any trees have since been removed.

³ Don't use these websites for stand-alone decision-making. Because they can over- or under-interpret on-the-ground specifics, they often require experienced interpretation.

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