

Make the right decision

Before installing alternative energy:

1. Use Energy Wisely: Look at how you currently use energy. Are you using it inefficiently? Can you make your home more energy efficient? Are you doing all you can to save energy, including being part of the co-op's **U-Shift, U-Save initiative (see facing page)**? We recommend not spending money on a new energy generation system, just to waste it due to inefficient windows, doors, appliances or heating/cooling systems.

2. Ask Questions: You are now ready to look at a renewable energy system, but before you talk to a contractor ask yourself these questions:

- Do you want a system that will provide all your power needs or would you prefer a supplemental energy source to reduce the amount of power you buy from the grid?
- How long do you plan to live at your house?
- What kind of system are you looking for?
- How much are you willing to spend?

3. Find Reputable Contractors: You're now ready to ask those who already have alternative energy projects to recommend contractors. You want to find out how much a system will cost and if there are any state or federal tax credits that will help reduce your costs. You also want to research how much energy the system will generate, remembering that the output depends heavily on the weather and therefore will not generate at its full potential all the time. Have your contractor run numbers using local weather data. In addition, you will want to know the following:

- How much will it cost to generate a kilowatt hour (kwh) of energy. Compare that with your current cost per kwh from Adams Electric.
- Will the system pay for itself within a reasonable amount of time?
- What are the system maintenance and warranty issues?
- What are the manufacturer's and contractor's references?
- Can you visit other local installations and talk to the owners?
- Do you have a lawyer to review contracts and advise you on related legal matters?

4. Contact Adams Electric Before Work Begins: There are contracts to sign and safety guidelines to review. These guidelines keep both you and Adams Electric's employees safe. Adams Electric can guide you through the application process, including a distributed generation interconnection packet. Adams Electric recommends that you carry liability insurance.

Recharge off-peak

If you purchase a plug-in electric vehicle, please notify Adams Electric so the equipment serving your house can be properly sized. Undersized transformers can overheat and cause power outages.

The co-op also suggests that the vehicle be charged during off-peak hours using either a U-Shift switch or a separate off-peak subpanel.



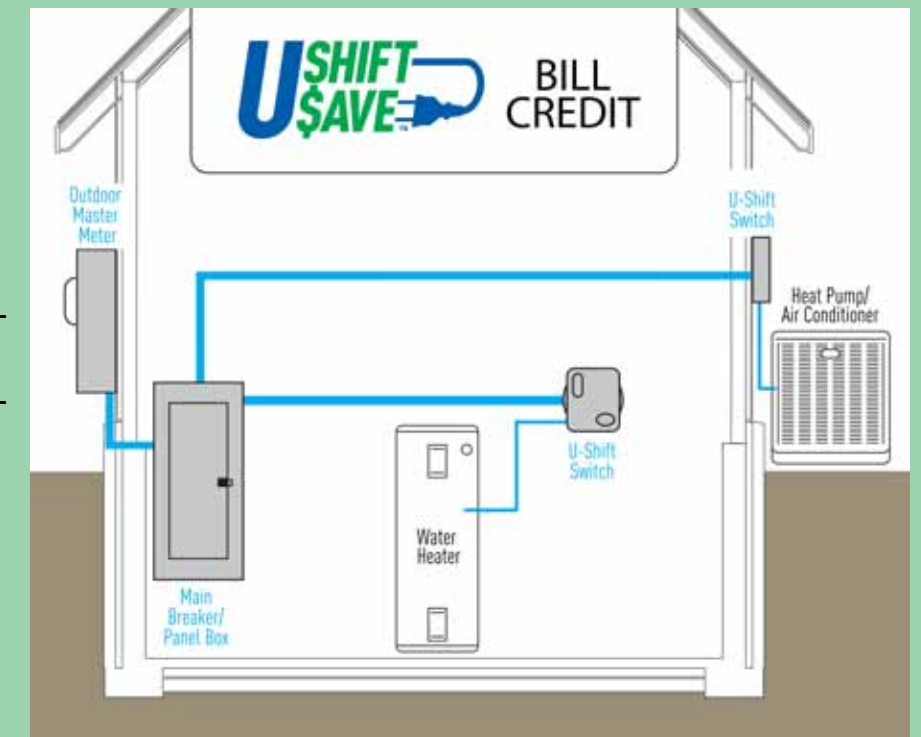
U-Shift, U-Save

The co-op's U-Shift program moves the use of electric water heaters, heating and cooling systems and other interruptible equipment to off-peak hours. As the name implies, members benefit when they shift their use of electricity to non-demand hours. For more information, visit adamsec.coop and click on "U-Shift, U-Save" under "My Energy Savings." *Note: Rates and credits are subject to change.*

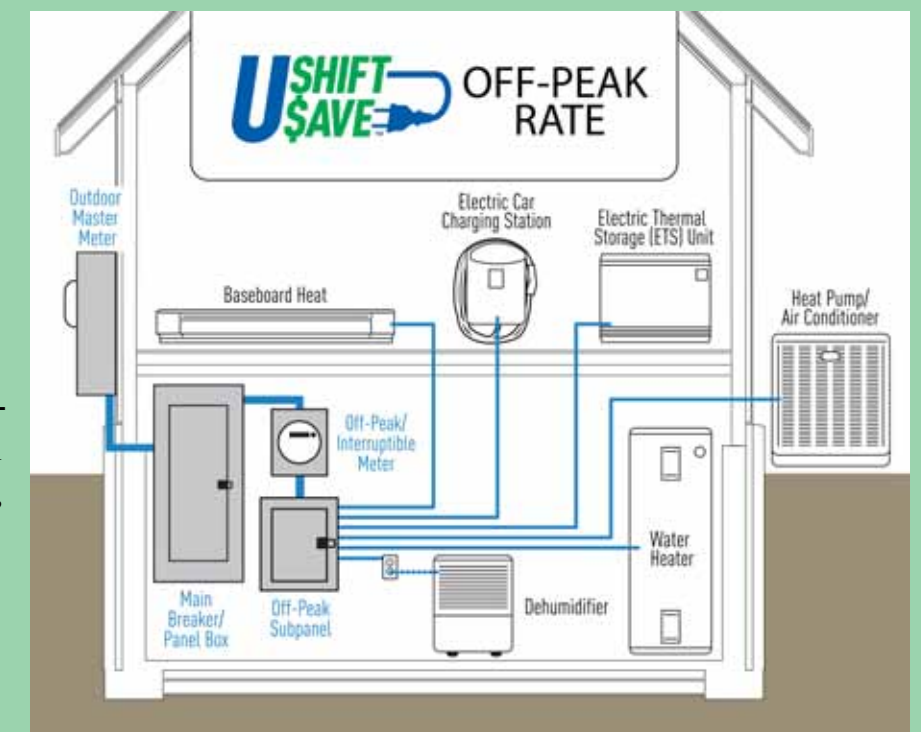
U-Shift initiatives



U-Shift Water Heating asks members to allow switches to be installed free of charge (a \$215-value) on their electric water heaters and earn a monthly bill credit. Rebates are offered to members who buy new water heaters and allow a switch to be installed on it. Rebates are also available for those with already installed electric water heaters who decide to join the program.



U-Shift Off-Peak Rate asks members to install a separate subpanel and meter base (at their expense), but then provides about a 50 percent rate reduction in the energy supply section of the bill for all the electricity that flows through that subpanel.



Think Green Thoughts



Adams Electric's Solar Generation: A 45.76 kilowatt photovoltaic system is located at the co-op's Gettysburg headquarters office. The 200-panel solar array system has exceeded expectations since it began operations in October 2010. To view the live generation reports, visit adamsec.coop and click on the Solar Dashboard button.

Recognized for Leadership: Adams Electric has been recognized for its pioneering efforts to deliver electricity reliably and affordably while preserving natural resources. The co-op has received both the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence and the Gettysburg/Adams Chamber of Commerce Environmental Stewardship Award for its efforts.



Since 2006, the co-op has been introducing hybrid vehicles into its fleet, which get better mileage and have lower emissions. Adams Electric was one of the first utilities in the nation to purchase a hybrid bucket truck.

Low cost loans available

Did you know you can take advantage of low rates on loans for energy efficiency improvements and energy conversion systems. Co-op members can borrow up to \$35,000 with terms of 1-7 years for the projects listed below. Loans can be repaid with payments added to a member's electric bill.

ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS INCLUDE:

- Solar Generation
- Wind Generation
- Hydropower
- Biomass
- Geothermal

To Learn More
717/334-9211 or 888/232-6732
Visit: adamsec.coop

Other Sites
Federal: energystar.gov/taxcredits
State: keystonehelp.com
Solar: eere.energy.gov/solar
Wind: awea.org/smallwind
Energy Credits: <http://gats.pjm-eis.com>
Installers: keystonehelp.com/search/index.php

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Is Alternative Energy Right for You?

Decide if alternative generation will save you energy and money. Learn more about choosing a system.

POWERING THE FUTURE 



Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

