

Is My Solar System Generating Power?

ASES recommends checking your electric meter(s) periodically to ensure your system is generating electricity.

1 Locate your electricity meter(s)

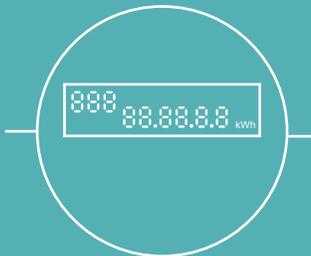
All homes have at least one meter installed to keep track of how much electricity you have produced with your solar panels and consumed from the grid. They are installed on the outside of your house and circular in shape.



An Electricity Meter

2 Identify the type of meter(s)

Newer meters have a digital display, while older ones have analog dials that spin around.



Digital

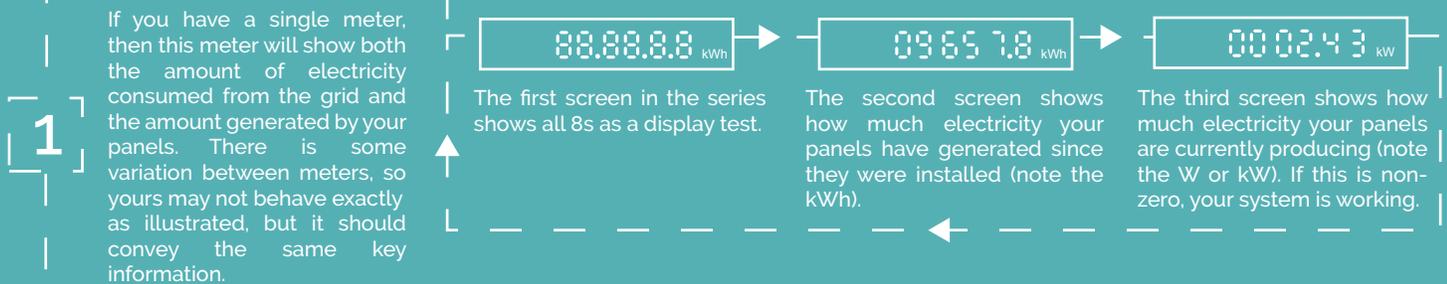
3 How many meters does your home have?

4 Identify the production meter

Look for labels indicating which meter is connected to your solar system. If there is no label, follow the wiring to see which one is connected to your solar panels.

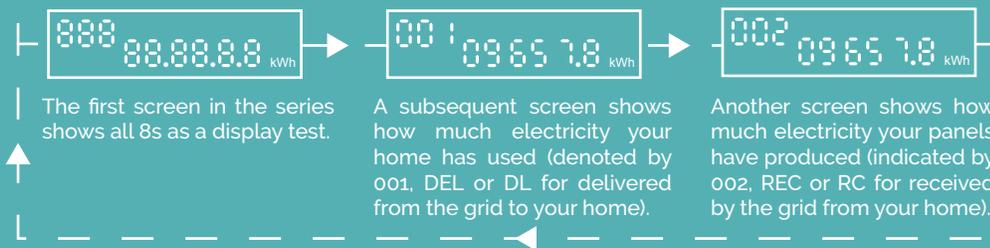
5 Check the numbers

Your meter will cycle through different screens, each showing different numbers.



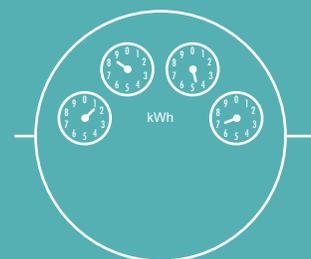
4 Check the numbers

Your meter will cycle through different screens, each showing different numbers.



Some meters will have another screen that indicates power currently being sent to the grid (i.e. generated by your panels) with the unit W or kW (instead of kWh). Others may use arrows or sliding dashes to denote the direction of electricity flow, where to the right means consumption and to the left means generation. If there is a screen showing your current production and it is non-zero, then your system is working.

If you cannot identify such a screen, then simply write down the total generation number (the third screen depicted) and check it again a day or two later. If it has increased, then your system is working.



Analog

3 Identify the production meter

You will have two analog meters, one for consumption (the original meter) and one for production (installed with your solar system). There should be some label indicating which is which. If not, follow the wiring to see which one is connected to your solar panels.

4 Check the reading over multiple days

If your solar system is working properly, then the dials should slowly move over time. Write down the current reading (each dial is a digit) and check back in a day or two. If the dials have moved, then your system is producing power. If not, contact your installer or post on the ASES community forums at community.ases.org for assistance.