

Solar can make sense in today's landscapes

Today solar power can be a viable and cost-effective alternative to standard grid-connected systems for powering landscape 12 volt lighting and waterscapes. When it costs almost as much for an electrician to install outdoor 120 volt outlets in the sunny back yard as it does to buy a solar panel, charge-controller, and battery, why not consider installing solar instead?

Solar lights with the panel integrated together with the LED and battery do not perform as well as we would like. These self-contained fixtures are indeed extremely easy to install and require no wiring. However, in dark winter months when outdoor lighting is needed most, solar lights with a tiny, flat PV panel on top don't fully recharge the battery because of the sun's low angle in the sky. Most of these fixtures are not made to last and end up in the dump after only a couple of seasons.

A separate solar panel can be sized appropriately and aimed accurately to collect the optimum amount of sunlight. A separate battery can have a MUCH greater storage capacity and wires must connect the battery-storage to the load. A properly designed solar system delivers:

- Reduced environmental impact – renewable power source
- Can be appropriate for both 12 volt outdoor lighting & waterscapes, however different types of charge-controllers are used.
- Saves money with both installation and with ZERO operating costs.
- Can operate up to 24-hours a day with charge-controller & battery storage, however a timer is also recommended.
- Long system life: panels warrantied for 20 years.
- An easy-to-install project for a landscape contractor or experienced do-it-yourselfer. No expensive electrician or permit required for ground or pole mounted panels.
- We can now supply the equipment and knowledge for your solar landscape projects.



The Urban Farmer Store[®]

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