

About Brightergy

Brightergy is a clean-energy company. We reduce organizations' electric bills with solar power -- so they save money from day one, control future costs, and build a reputation as an organization making an impact.

Brightergy empowers organizations, non-profits, and government agencies to take control of their energy costs and usage through clean-energy generation, consumption, and distribution -- an action that better enables them to manage cost and change.

- Where is Brightergy located?
Brightergy has offices in St. Louis, Kansas City and Boston. We currently serve the Massachusetts and Missouri solar markets.
- When was Brightergy founded?
In 2010, CEO Adam Blake purchased the assets of the Energy Savings Store (founded in St. Louis in 2003), a small but significant player in Missouri clean energy. Doing this, he joined forces with principals Susan Brown and Ryan Gardner. In two short years the company has grown from 10 employees to more than 50, but the values and vision for a democratic energy future remain unwavered.

Learn more at <http://brightergy.com>

About BrighterSchools™ - [Solar energy made simple for Missouri educators.](#)

Solar energy and schools pair perfectly together. Installing solar-panel systems at your school or in your district saves you money from day one, provides ready-made, hands-on learning opportunities, and creates a conversation about your school(s) and sustainability. With the complete BrighterSchools™ program, your school or district benefits from [solar energy's comprehensive advantages](#) with three simple tools. It's as easy as 123 (or ABC).

1. BrighterLease™ – Your Solar-Panel Systems

"It's a win-win-win." - Beth Feldman, School Board President, [Parkway School District](#), referencing the financial, educational, and environmental attributes of BrighterLease™. With the [BrighterLease™](#), your school or district leases solar panels from Brightergy and produces its own clean energy:

- There are no up-front costs, so it's cash-positive from day one.
- The fixed monthly payments are less than you would have paid the utility for the same amount of generated electricity.
- It's maintenance-free for you because Brightergy owns the system.
- An online tool, accessible by you, measures the energy production of the system.
- And of course, a positive environmental impact comes standard.

Read the in-depth details of our [Missouri solar-energy lease](#).

2. BrighterClassroom™ – Solar in the Classroom

“You have communicated the lessons extremely well and linked them to so many ‘teacher friendly’ resources (connections to standards, Essential Questions, rubrics, clear instructions for the lessons, etc.). I am excited to get started with the Professional Development opportunities and training.” - Susan Zareh, 6th Grade Math Teacher Forsyth School, St. Louis, Missouri

The installation of solar panels at your school or district creates a unique opportunity for hands-on learning about energy and the environment. BrighterClassroom™ targets a school’s existing math and/or science curriculum to provide supplemental material and instruction about energy forms and sources. Special emphasis is placed on photovoltaic technology as the students utilize their own school building as a learning lab and their school’s solar-panel array as a hands-on tool for research.

The BrighterClassroom™ program was developed in conjunction with the [EarthWays Center](#) (EWC), a division of the Missouri Botanical Garden. EWC has delivered energy and recycling education in area K-12 schools since 1988. Their staff and programs have been recognized regionally for educational leadership.

[Download BrighterSchools™ Curriculum Overview](#)

3. BrighterConversation™ – Your Solar Story

Solar power is more than just an energy saver: it’s a conversation starter, providing positive PR value for your school or district.

Every BrighterSchool™ receives a large monitor to display BrighterView™, a presentation of the school’s current energy production and its positive impact on the environment (it connects to the solar system’s production monitoring program). The display also shows photos of the school’s solar-energy system, as well as facts about solar-energy and how it works.

In addition to BrighterView™, we help scale the conversation and generate buzz with a social-media ecosystem comprised of a [Tumblr page](#), [Facebook tab](#) and [#mysolarschool](#) hashtag. The ecosystem provides a home for photos, videos, news, projects and conversations being created as a result of your school or district’s solar-power installation and curriculum. Simple to manage, it acts as a bridge for communities and conversations between social-media platforms and the classroom, allowing for ideas and experiences to spread throughout your school or district and beyond. We build the ecosystem, and when you’re ready, give you the reins to your new solar community.

Solar Energy FAQs

- **How does solar energy work?**

Solar-photovoltaic panels convert sunlight directly into direct current (DC) power. An inverter converts this DC power into alternating current (AC) power that can be used in your building. The solar-panel system is interconnected with your utility provider; during the day, if your solar-energy system produces more electricity than your building is using, your utility will allow net-metering, or the crediting of your utility account for returning the excess power to the grid.

The utility provides power as usual at night, and during the day when your electricity demand exceeds that produced by your solar-energy system.

- **What is net-metering?**

Almost all utilities are required by law to offer net-metering, which effectively allows you to bank your solar energy until you need it. Net-metering allows you to send back any excess generation you do not use onto the grid. Net metering continues throughout the year and seasons, so you can build credit in the summer for darker winter days. It measures the difference between the electricity you buy from the utility and the electricity you generate with your solar electric system.

When you are making more electricity than you are using, your extra electricity automatically gets metered back to the utility grid for use at a later date. Essentially, net-metering allows you to use the electric utility grid like a bank account. You can put electricity into it that you don't use immediately, and you can withdraw the same amount later on at no net cost to you.

- **What happens when it is cloudy or at night when there is no sun?**

The amount of energy your solar system generates is directly attributed to the amount of sunlight it gets. As a result, it will produce slightly less electricity when it is cloudy. Surprisingly, the sun shines through the clouds and still produces electricity though.

Your solar-panel system will be connected to the utility grid, so you can draw energy from the grid when your solar system is not producing solar energy. You will never experience any power interruptions because of solar.

- **What happens if solar panels get covered by snow?**

Solar-electric panels need sunshine to generate power. While some sun does make it through several inches of snow, little electricity is generated when the panels are covered with anything. However, because solar panels operate at a much warmer temperature than the outside air, the snow will melt off of your solar panels and your system can continue generating electricity.

- **How long do solar-panel systems last?**

Most solar panel manufacturers have a 25-year warranty. Most inverters carry a 10-year warranty. There are solar-photovoltaic (PV) systems that were installed in the 1970's that are still around today.