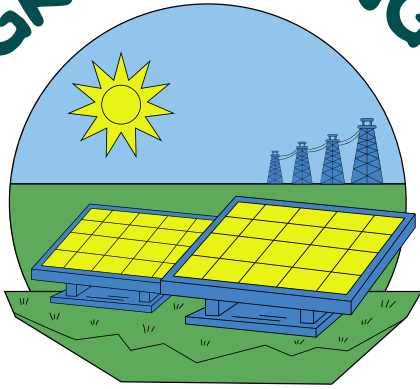
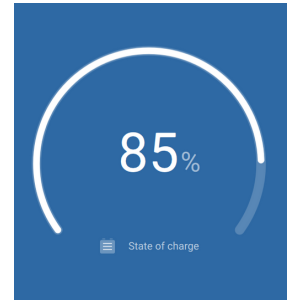


OFF-GRID LIVING TIPS



MONITOR YOUR SYSTEM

Check the status of your system each morning and evening. This will help you get in tune with your system



WEATHER APPS

Plan your day with a weather app. Knowing if it's going to be sunny or cloudy can help you determine if you need to conserve energy or use opportunity loads.



No weather app? Radios can provide awesome weather updates as well!

Example 1:

The sun just set and our system is at 40%. We know we use about %30 each night. This would leave us @ 10% battery storage in the morning. We would want to use a generator to bring our system up to around 50% so we are not too close to 0%.

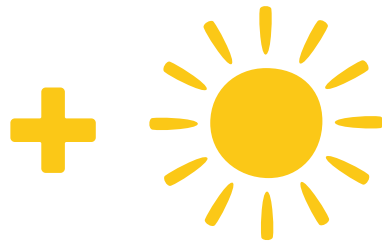
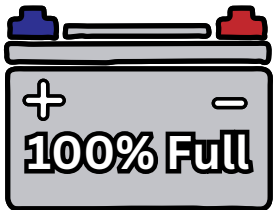
Example 2:

The sun just set, we had a full day of sun and our system is at 90%. Subtracting the 30% we normally use overnight, we should end up with around 60% of battery storage in the morning. This is acceptable.

OPPORTUNITY LOADS

Battery bank at 100% and still have full sun?

Time to use higher wattage appliances such as a water heater to heat water for laundry or dishes, or an induction hot plate for cooking lunch or dinner.



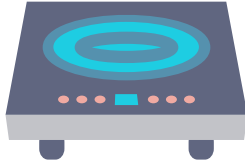
USE THOSE APPLIANCES!



HAVE ANOTHER CHARGING SOURCE

A generator can be a good back up charging source when your battery bank is low.

EFFICIENT APPLIANCES

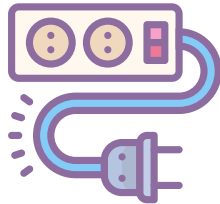


Using energy efficient appliances like fans, induction hot plates, and Energy Star refrigerators, can help reduce your energy consumption.

See Energy Efficient Appliances handout

USE POWER STRIPS

Save energy by plugging appliances into power strips and turning off the power strip at night. A "Phantom Load" is an appliance that still uses energy even when turned off, like a microwave with a digital clock.

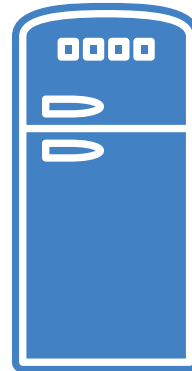


PUMP EXTRA WATER ON SUNNY DAYS

If you have a deep well, have extra water vessels that you can fill up on sunny days to have a reserve of water for backup on cloudy days.

KNOW YOUR LOADS & WHEN TO RUN THEM

Knowing your loads will help you make the choices needed to run your off-grid household. Most appliances have stickers showing watts or amps.



Example: Refrigerator
Uses 1 Amp @ 120V
 $1 \times 120 = 120$ Watts

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{AMPS} \\ \times \\ \text{VOLTS} \\ = \\ \text{WATTS} \end{array}$$

LOAD SHIFTING

Use an alternative source of power other than your solar system, especially when your battery bank is low.

PROPANE FOR COOKING



WOODSTOVE FOR HEATING