

Power of Sunlight Helps Altadena Couple See and Be Green

Lease Agreement Offers Affordable Financing for Use of Solar Energy

On a beautiful Southern California winter day, sunlight streams through floor-to-ceiling windows in the Los

Angeles County foothills home of husband and wife Dave Bedrosian and Kathy Talaro, providing warmth as they speak in their den. Mounted on their roof directly above them, 21 solar panels absorb sunlight and generate clean electricity to help meet their energy needs.

Dave and Kathy had their solar system installed in October 2009. They had read about a local resident who had solar panels on his home

and liked the idea of helping the environment, lowering their home's electricity costs and supporting solar technology.

Kathy, a microbiologist and retired Pasadena City College professor, explains, "I'm a scientist. I do think there's climate change, and the faster we can move to renewable electricity, the more it will take pressure off of carbon-based sources of energy."



SCE customers Kathy Talaro and Dave Bedrosian

The couple interviewed several solar installers, and one presented the option of leasing the solar panels instead of purchasing them. Through a lease, customers pay a flat monthly fee — about \$90 a month for Dave and Kathy — regardless of the amount of electricity generated by the solar system and without the higher up-front costs sometimes associated with purchasing a solar system. In exchange, the third-party lessor owns, operates and maintains the system, plus receives the California Solar Initiative (CSI) rebate and Federal Investment Tax Credit for the system installation.

"It was going to be a big out-of-pocket expense" to buy the system, Kathy says. "We went back and forth, but we hated to dip into our savings and take out a big chunk. We figured about 15 years paying approximately \$1,000 a year was reasonable."

Kathy says the solar system covers about two-thirds to three-quarters of their home's electrical usage. In addition to the

Savings by Managing Electricity

Location: Altadena, Los Angeles County, California

Home size: 1,800 square feet; 3 BR, 2 BA

System size: 3.6 kW; 21 roof-mounted fixed panels

Programs utilized: California Solar Initiative (CSI)

Results: Lower electricity bills and greenhouse gas emissions

**Average Power Usage Before & After
Installation of Solar Panels**



