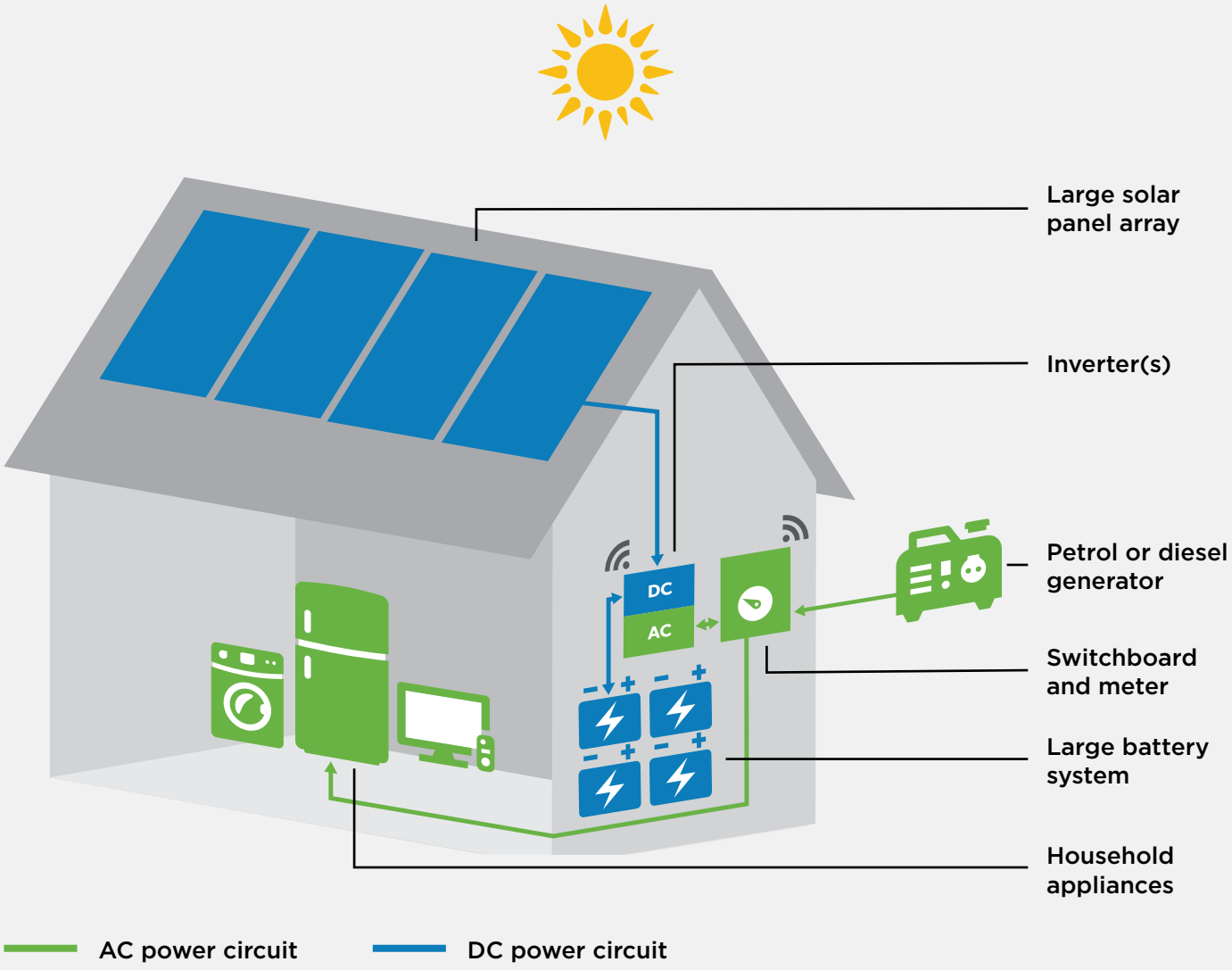
About offgrid home solar battery systems

Offgrid means not being connected to the local electricity grid. Offgrid houses need to generate and store electricity, with no reliance, or backup, from the grid.

How they work

An offgrid home solar battery system differs from a standard system in that it has more solar, a larger battery, and is usually supplemented with diesel or petrol generators.

They can give you control over your energy supply, however, their cost is usually significantly higher than a grid connected solar battery system.



Why go offgrid?

Choice and control
You have the choice and control over which type of power source you use.

Location limitations
A new, rural grid connection would be expensive and going offgrid would be a cheaper alternative.

Avoid outages
By going offgrid you can avoid the risk of grid outages.

Avoid charges
You can avoid fixed and ongoing grid electricity charges.

Economic for the network
In some remote locations, networks may find it more economic to pay households to install solar and a battery than to maintain or replace long power lines.

Microgrids
Groups of homes or businesses may benefit from forming their own small grid that is not connected to the main grid.

Things to consider

High installation costs: Installing an offgrid system is considerably more expensive than one that is connected to the grid. For an average NSW household, an offgrid hybrid power system may cost $25,000 to $75,000 upfront. A hybrid system consists of solar and battery with a generator backup.

Export restrictions: You won't be able to export your excess electricity from your rooftop solar or solar battery back to the grid.

Responsibility: You are responsible for your own security of supply and its costs.

The future: When selling your home in the future, buyers may have energy needs that are different to yours. Reconnecting to the grid can be costly.

Generator backup: By going off grid you may be reliant on a diesel or petrol generator to provide backup power.

Summary

A **grid-connected home solar battery system** can provide many of the benefits of going offgrid, including a mostly clean and renewable power supply, while continuing to provide access to reliable grid electricity when needed. Sizing your home solar battery system to supply enough power 80 to 90 percent of the time is more cost-effective than going fully offgrid. It means you can export excess solar energy to the grid and use the battery in an efficient way.

NSW GOVERNMENT

For more information, download the NSW Home Solar Battery Guide:
energysaver.nsw.gov.au/solar-battery-systems