ONTARIO GUIDE

Beat Ontario ULO Rates with Solar + Battery

How Ontario homeowners on Ultra-Low Overnight or Time-of-Use pricing use a hybrid solar-and-battery system to charge cheap and beat peak rates.

Neighborhood Solar Store
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Ontario only. If you're on Ultra-Low Overnight (ULO) or Time-of-Use pricing, a hybrid solar-and-battery system can turn the gap between cheap and expensive hours into real savings. Here's how.

The opportunity

Ontario's ULO plan charges as little as **3.9¢/kWh overnight** and as much as **39.1¢/kWh at peak** — a spread of about **35¢/kWh**. With a battery, you charge cheap and use it when power is expensive.

> **Three ways solar + battery pays on ULO:** (1) panels offset your daytime usage, (2) the battery carries you through the pricey 4–9 PM peak, and (3) you can charge the battery from the grid overnight at 3.9¢ and discharge it at peak — buying power at a tenth of the peak price.

Where the inverter comes in

A **hybrid inverter** is what makes this work — it manages solar, battery, and grid together, and can be programmed to charge overnight and discharge at peak. Modern string hybrid inverters (the kind that pair with a string of panels and a battery bank) handle all three jobs in one unit.

Solar-only isn't enough here — panels stop producing right as the evening peak begins. The battery is what captures those expensive hours.

The rough math

Shift just 10 kWh/day from peak to overnight and you save about **10 × 35¢ = $3.50/day ≈ $1,285/year** from arbitrage alone — before counting what the panels offset. Ontario data puts solar + battery on ULO at a **5–8 year payback**.

Worth knowing

- ☐ It only gets better — Ontario rates have been rising, which widens the spread
- ☐ Net metering credits your solar exports at retail value — more valuable as rates climb
- ☐ Best fit: homes on ULO, homes with an EV, or anyone with heavy evening usage

Rates cited are Ontario regulated prices for the current period and change over time — check the OEB for your exact plan. Not financial advice.

Want a free custom design for your setup?

We're Neighborhood Solar Store — a Canadian solar retailer shipping panels, inverters, batteries and complete systems Canada-wide. Tell us what you want to power and we'll design a complete system and quote it, free, no obligation. Free lifetime technical support on every order.

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