Rooftop Solar can be a cost-effective way to power your home.

Consider siting your home and including design features to allow for rooftop solar. You can reduce your electricity costs and possibly make some money as well!

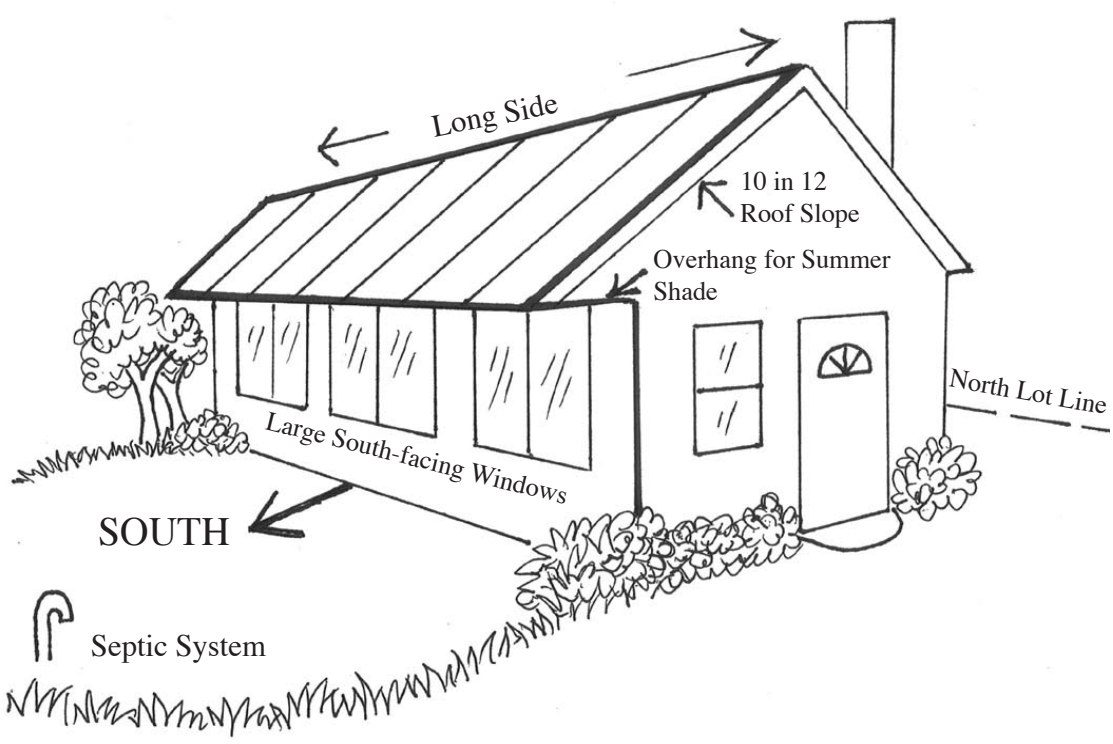
Siting a Building for Rooftop Solar --

Long side of the building faces south

Locate building close to north lot line to increase yard space to the south

Place it north of the septic system if possible – clearing for the system opens up solar access

Make sure tall trees don't block solar access



Designing a Building for Rooftop Solar --

South facing roof slopes about 10 in 12 pitch to make the best angle for solar panels

Solar-ready section of south roof , strong enough to bear weight of a solar system, with no obstructions like vents or chimney

Standing Seam Metal roofing most cost-effective for mounting panels

Build in metal conduit from attic to near the electrical service panel (typically 1-inch)

Large south facing windows bring in winter sun, use shades or roof overhang for summer shade.

Landscaping for Rooftop Solar --

Plant small native trees and shrubs at south side of house. Short deciduous trees and shrubs give shade in summer without blocking solar access, and let sun warm the house in winter.

For example – flowering dogwood, serviceberry, elderberry, witch hazel.

Landscaping to Save Water

Every Mason home depends on its own well, which could run low in a drought. *NH homes use between 30% and 60% of their water outdoors.* (NHDES201904-greenworks) Landscaping that needs less water protects the home water supply and reduces electricity use for well pumping.

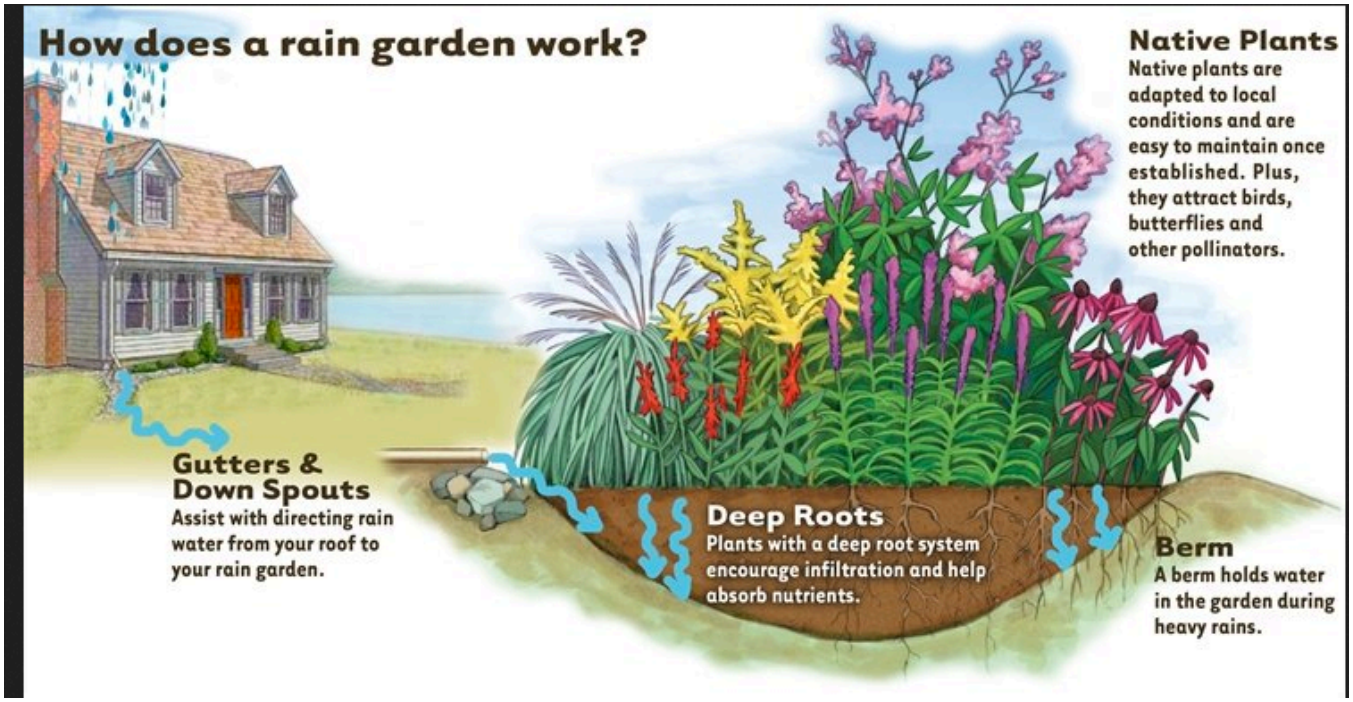
* **Limit lawn areas** to places used for play or sitting, and use low-nitrogen-demand turfgrass. Returning clippings to lawns can cut nitrogen fertilizer use by up to one-third.

* **Consider planting a wildflower meadow** or other type of groundcover.

* **Use drought tolerant native plantings**. UNH Extension lists these plants at --

https://extension.unh.edu/resource/drought-tolerant-plants-new-hampshire-landscapes-fact-sheet

* **Consider planting a Rain Garden.** This is a shallow depression in the landscape designed to capture stormwater runoff and let it slowly infiltrate into the soil. It's planted with perennials, grasses and/or shrubs that tolerate wet and dry conditions. When made properly, water infiltrates within 1-2 days and doesn't breed mosquitos.



UNH Extension has information about making rain gardens, including a video, at --

https://extension.unh.edu/resource/rain-gardens-design-and-installation

NH State Forest Nursery has tree and shrub seedlings adapted for New Hampshire's climate. Their spring 2021 catalog is out in December 2020. https://www.nh.gov/nhnursery/