What needs to stay on?

Bring this worksheet to your home energy consultation. Start with your daily needs, then review equipment and backup options.

Choose your priorities: essential = must support your household plan; helpful = useful if capacity allows; optional = can wait. Record unknown ratings as questions for your installer.

Device / circuit	Priority	Running W	Starting W	Hours needed

Ideas to consider: refrigeration, a few lights, phone charging, internet equipment, a well or sump pump, and necessary heating or cooling. Include medical equipment requirements confirmed with your care team. Do not assume every item can run at once.

Questions to settle with your installer

- ☐ Which circuits are included, and which large loads will be excluded or managed?
- ☐ Can the proposed system handle starting power as well as normal running power?
- ☐ What backup duration is estimated for my priorities, and what assumptions affect it?
- ☐ How will the system recharge during an outage? What happens if poor weather continues?
- ☐ What are the upfront cost, ongoing costs, warranty terms and service arrangements?

This is a planning tool, not a system-sizing calculation. Equipment ratings, simultaneous use, battery charge and system design affect performance. Keep a separate contingency plan for essential medical needs.