

**RESOURCE**

Using a Breakeven Without Treating It as a Forecast

A breakeven number answers a narrower question than it sounds like it does: at what specific input value does this decision flip. It is not a prediction of what will actually happen, and treating it as one is the most common way a breakeven gets misused.

What a breakeven actually solves for

The [rate plan breakeven engine](#) solves for the specific usage pattern or rate at which switching plans stops being worthwhile, holding everything else constant. It tells you where the line is, not which side of the line your actual future will land on.

Applying the same logic to backup power

The [backup option breakeven engine](#) solves for the outage frequency or cost at which a battery or generator purchase clears. See [battery backup economics](#) for the fuller discussion of pricing resilience honestly.

A breakeven rate for solar

The [solar breakeven electricity rate engine](#) shows the electricity rate at which a system's cost is fully offset. A large margin between that breakeven rate and your actual rate is a more reassuring signal than a breakeven number sitting right at your current rate.

Breakevens for charging and fuel switching

The [public charging price breakeven engine](#) and the [water heater fuel switch breakeven engine](#) apply the same structure to their respective decisions: a

threshold, not a prediction.

Always pair a breakeven with a sensitivity check

Most RetrofitROI engines also show how the recommendation changes if a key input moves by a reasonable margin in either direction, commonly 20%. Reading that range alongside the breakeven tells you whether the decision is robust across plausible outcomes or fragile to a single optimistic assumption.

Reading "no breakeven found" correctly

When an engine reports that no breakeven exists within the tested range, that is not a gap in the tool, it is the honest result: the option does not clear even under the most favorable input tested. Treat that as a real negative signal rather than assuming a wider search would eventually find one.