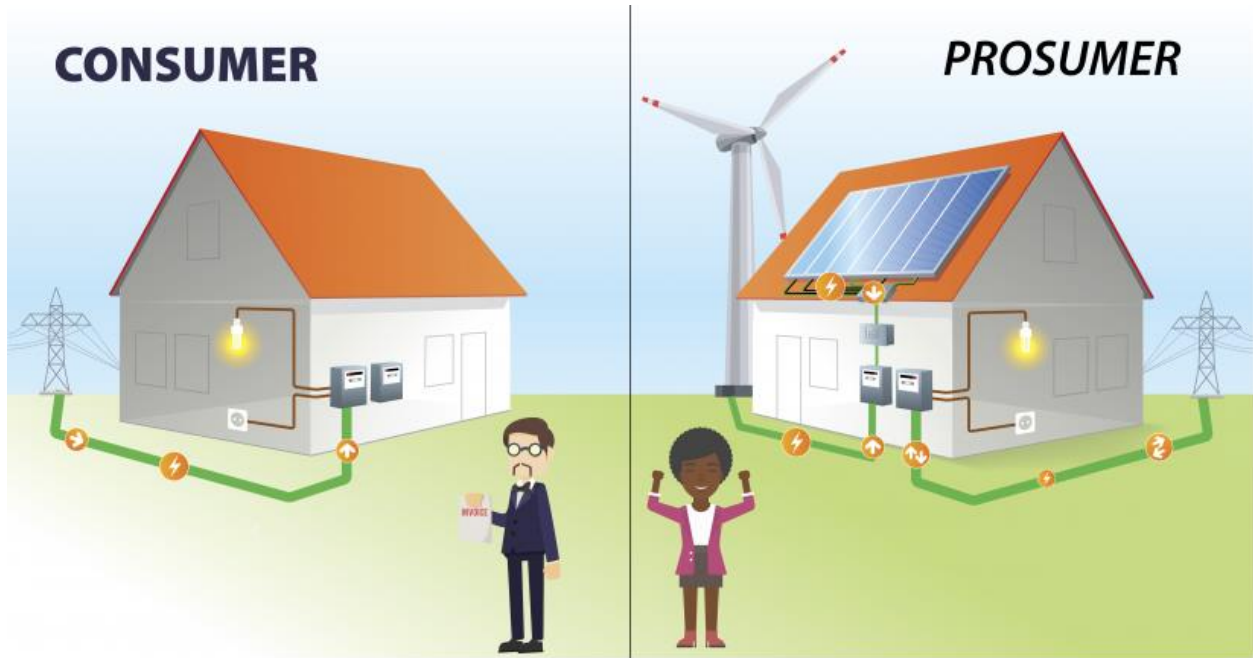


Reducing your carbon footprint

Becoming a Prosumer



So you have come to this point and seen the value of getting serious on energy conservation. Well really the final step is to become what is called a prosumer (proactive consumer). A prosumer is someone that is actively generating electricity to serve their needs, using batteries from their cars or installed to store energy when the sun isn't shining, communicating with the utility, and selling excess clean energy back to the utility. This person is a proactive consumer (prosumer) of energy and has complete control over their energy carbon footprint.

What does this entail, in Georgia this would be rooftop solar panels, battery storage, a small scale computer dedicated to managing your battery and energy usage, and your billing setup with the utility. The billing being the opportunity to bill the utility not you getting billed. Yes the utility not only will pay you but is required to buy your clean energy back from you (net metering). A prosumer can leverage plug in hybrid or electric cars to augment their energy storage, track energy prices to sell back energy when prices are highest and consume when energy prices are lowest.

I'm not suggesting that everyone here at GSLC go out and become prosumers, but for everyone's knowledge there are ways that we as end users of electricity can reduce our consumption to zero and even become bright lights (pun intended) to our community in our commitment to being good stewards of God's gifts to us.