

# What are the differences between the MCS and Easy PV self-consumption calculations?

This guide applies to [easy-pv.co.uk](https://easy-pv.co.uk). For [easy-pv.ie](https://easy-pv.ie) only the Easy PV method is available.

There are a few differences between the Easy PV and MCS self-consumption calculations:

## 1. System size

- MCS: can be used for projects with consumption between 1500-6000kWh, generation below 6000kWh and usable battery capacity below 15.1kWh.
- Easy PV: can be used for any system size and consumption level.

## 2. Consumption profiles

- MCS: choice between domestic consumption profiles: home all day, home half the day and out all day.
- Easy PV: additional choices between [commercial consumption profiles](#). You also have the option to upload half-hourly meter data to ensure the consumption profile is entirely accurate to the customer's usage.

## 3. Method

- MCS: self-consumption is determined based on [lookup tables](#) specified in MGD 003.
- Easy PV: uses the same total generation figure but then uses PVGIS data to model how this is distributed across the year. Easy PV then calculates steps minute by minute over the course of the year, looking at how much is being generated, how much is being consumed and how charged the battery is and diverting the energy accordingly.

## 4. Additional options

- Since Easy PV calculates how the generated electricity is used minute-by-minute rather than annually, it means **export limits, variable tariffs and forced charging/discharging of batteries** can be factored into the model. Easy PV also factors in **inverter clipping**.

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