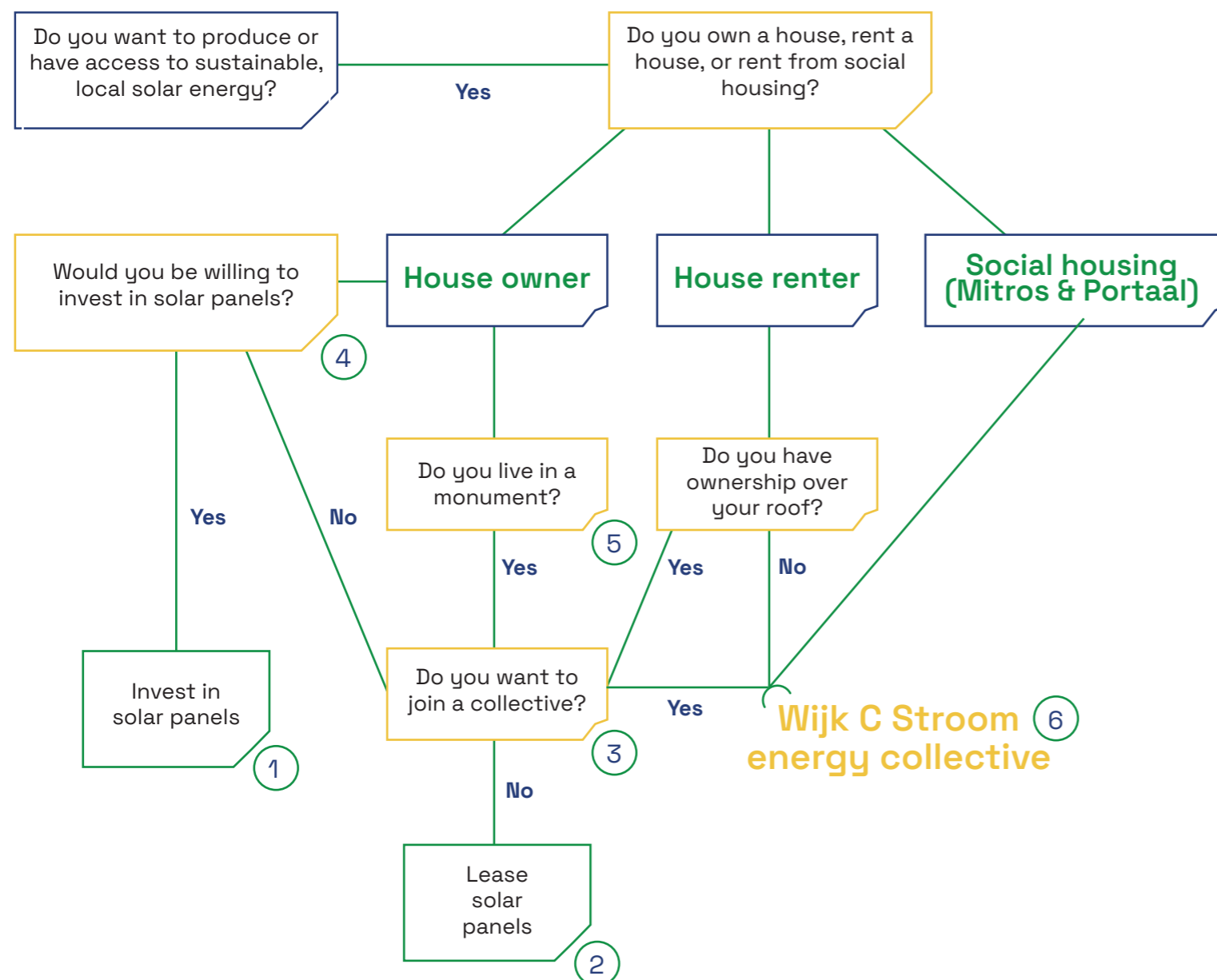


SOLAR ENERGY À LA CARTE



1 Investing in solar panels and a green roof?

As a house-owner, you can invest in your own solar panels to install on your roof, as long as you are willing to make the investment. If you are willing to contribute even more to the direct local sustainability of the environment, you can include a green roof. By combining solar panels and a green roof, the efficiency of solar panels is increased. In the meantime the green roof reduces the urban heat island effect and increases biodiversity, among many other positive environmental impacts. If the slope of your roof is less than 20 degrees, it is suitable for a green roof and solar panels.

2 What does it mean to 'lease' solar panels?

If you would like to lease solar panels, it means that the solar panels will be installed on your roof, and you will pay a monthly fee. **Leasing has a few benefits:**

- You don't have to make a big initial investment yourself.
- Installing costs, reparation costs, and insurance are included in the fee.

However, there are also some cons to leasing.

- You don't own the solar panels yourself.
- On the long term, it is more expensive than buying solar panels.

3 Leasing or buying? What is more beneficial on the long term?

In Wijk C, there are a lot of houses which have a monumental status. If you live in a monument, for example at the 'Oudegracht', you are bound to certain rules regarding solar panel installation. You have to request a permit in order to install solar panels on the roof of a monument.

4 How much do I have to invest?

The initial investment depends on the amount of solar panels that you can and want to place on your roof. If around 10 panels are being installed, the initial investment will be around €5000-€6000. Due to the savings on your electricity bill, the payback time will be between 3 and 8 years. The solar panels will last for approximately 25 years, meaning that this is a profitable investment. If you will move out within these 25 years, the value of your solar panels will be included in the value of your home when sold.

5 What if I live in a monument?

In Wijk C, there are a lot of houses which have a monumental status. If you live in a monument, for example at the 'Oudegracht', you are bound to certain rules regarding solar panel installation. You have to request a permit in order to install solar panels on the roof of a monument.

6 What is the Wijk C Stroom energy collective?

Wijk C Stroom is a grass root civil initiative and their objective is to provide solar power for all residents in the Utrecht neighborhood 'Wijk C'. Wijk C Stroom is an initiative run by 5 local citizens, founded in 2019, and now on their way to realize the first big solar energy project together with the social housing corporation Mitros. Wijk C Stroom aims to play a role in the neighborhood as an energy collective, bringing the citizens together by investing in local solar energy. They want to include house-owners, renters, social housing renters, so everyone can join this network and have the opportunity to generate their own electricity.