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# Pros and Cons of Solar Energy

Solar Energy has some really great benefits, unfortunately it also has a few draw backs. So let's take a look at the good and bad.

## Pros of Solar Energy

### Solar power helps the environment.

Climate change, one of the biggest threats to the environment, feeds on CO2 emissions. Solar panels produce energy without any fossil fuels, helping offset tons of emissions. Solar panels also don't produce pollution. They don't rely on the earth's limited supply of oil– or cause oil spills.

### Once the initial expense is paid, solar panels provide free energy.

Unlike your utility company, the sun is not going to charge you to provide energy. Solar panels are a big investment, but the initial cost can be reduced through the many state and local rebates available to homeowners across North America. And then you're just getting free energy (possibly with some very minor fees to be hooked up to the grid).

### Solar panels don't require new land use.

Unlike many other energy sources, solar panels need very little space. They'll be installed in space that otherwise would have been unused– your roof.

## Solar panels are quiet and don't have moving parts.

Wind power, in contrast to solar, can be noisy, and requires maintenance. Solar panels are silent and self-sufficient.

## Solar panels promote energy independence.

Solar panels use local energy— the sun shining on your house— and don't rely on imported energy sources.

## Solar panels can be used in remote locations.

If you happen to live somewhere without access to the grid, you can use solar energy to power your home.

# Cons of Solar Energy

## Solar panels are a major investment with extremely long payback period.

Solar panels aren't cheap. On the other hand, federal tax credits, state and local government incentives (for the time being) are making it more affordable. However the affordability comes at a long awaited return on your investment.

## Installment Contracts come with a serious price.

In Terms of monthly money paid out it may not look too bad. That being said you are asked to sign for a long term, locked price for your KWh. In today's energy market prices are stabilizing at historically low rates, and any locking of prices will ultimately cause you to spend more money than is needed for a long time. (solar contracts usually run about 20-25 years).

## Solar panels don't work 24 hours a day.

At night, your solar panels won't be producing electricity, and they won't work very well on cloudy days. If you're using grid-tied solar, though, you'll just get fed energy from the grid when you

need it (and if you're in a remote location using a battery back-up system, you can use your stored energy).

## Solar panels will not store the un-used energy that it creates.

This is a major drawback for the days or hours that your business or home is not in use the solar panels are still doing their job but the energy that is being collected cannot be utilized by simply having a solar system. Battery backup is needed to use your collected energy.

# Final Pros and Cons of Solar Energy Tally: 6-4, Solar Panels!!

So with all that being said, solar energy is great to harness. Used properly with an educated system the benefits severely outweigh the drawbacks. Before you make the decision to go solar please take the time to educate yourself on what the good, bad and ugly could be.

Thank You

Energy Enterprises & Green Energy Group.