

SOLAR ENERGY FAQ

MYTH VS. REALITY



MYTH

TRUTH

Solar panels leak and spew poisonous gases

→ Panels are safe, silicon-based modules that do not have runoff, and solar cells are laminated into polymers and the small amount of heavy metals used in some panels cannot mix with water or vaporize into the air

Solar panels create a glare that is dangerous and distracting

→ Solar panels use non-reflective glass designed to absorb light, not reflect it

People can't sell their homes or land if they live next to solar

→ A study conducted across Illinois determined that the value of properties within one mile increased by an average of 2 percent after the installation of a solar farm.

Solar panels will increase the temperature around them

→ Solar arrays create the same level of electromagnetic fields as electrical appliances and wiring found in most houses and buildings, the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources reported.

Solar energy takes farmland out of production

→ Solar energy helps preserve and restore farmland, which can be even more productive in the future after years of rest and regeneration.

Solar energy projects diminish property values

→ Examining property value in states across the United States demonstrates that large-scale solar arrays often have no measurable impact on the value of adjacent properties, and in some cases may even have positive effects. An appraisal study spanning from North Carolina to Tennessee shows that properties adjoining solar farms match the value of similar properties that do not adjoin solar farms within one percent.

Solar projects will raise property taxes

→ Solar projects provide new revenue for local governments, easing the tax burden on citizens and businesses.

People don't want to look at solar panels

→ Large solar projects have similar characteristics to a greenhouse or single-story residence. Usually no more than 10 feet high, solar farms are often enclosed by fencing and/or landscaping to minimize visual impacts.

Tornadoes are harmful for solar panels

→ A natural disaster is just that - a disaster that could have a devastating effect on any industry or structure. Modern solar equipment is designed and rigorously tested to withstand extreme weather conditions, including hail, extreme temperatures and tornado-force winds.