



Solar Sebastopol

Solar PV Myths and Realities

Myth: If you wait to go solar, the deal will get sweeter, and you'll get better PV value.

Reality: PV panel prices continue to go up as rebates go down. Thus, net costs are on the rise. The best return on investment is on PV systems installed sooner rather than later. People who went solar four years ago paid the lowest cost for their PV installation and have had four years of low or no electricity bills. Now is the time to act for the best deal.

Myth: There are new technologies on the horizon that will make current PV panels obsolete, and which will be less costly and better.

Reality: New technologies are still in the research and development phase, not yet proven reliable. It will be years before they are widely available and the cost is unknown. Until then, how much will you pay to PG&E that instead could go toward a PV system? Do you wait for the next generation of less costly, more advanced computers to come on the market before you buy when you need one now? Why apply a different standard to your energy needs?

Myth: Solar is too expensive

Reality: PV is not as expensive as buying electricity from PG&E, especially over time. You already pay to "rent" electricity, so why not own your own power production system? Installing a PV system locks in your electricity costs and gives long-term protection from rate increases. If you finance the installation, initially you may pay 10-15% more per month than today's electricity bill. But it won't be long before electricity rates have risen 20%. From then on your monthly electricity expense will be less and your payment will go towards equity in your property, rather than paying PG&E for "rented" power.

Myth: Solar doesn't really help with global warming.

Reality: Going solar is a practical way to protect the environment, and lightens the load on the power grid. Even a relatively small (2.5 kW) PV system keeps over a ton and a half of CO₂ out of the environment annually, and is equal to planting over half an acre of trees every year. The larger the PV system, the better the environmental benefits and economic savings.

Myth: Solar technology has "burned" people in the past, and isn't a wise investment.

Reality: As the solar industry has matured, quality has improved. Experience shows that solar power is reliable and a great long-term investment. Solar has come a long way from the 1970s, when poor system design and some unscrupulous solar hot water dealers gave solar a "black eye." Fortunately, that's now history! Be sure to select a solar provider with faultless credentials in experience, service and customer satisfaction.

Myth: Solar technology is not the solution to our energy problems.

Reality: PV plus energy conservation provide a clean and cost effective alternative to coal, natural gas and nuclear power to meet domestic residential and commercial energy demands.

Myth: Solar technology won't work for very long and is only a short-term solution.

Reality: Solar panel manufacturers provide at least 20-year warranties. When done correctly, PV installations should provide trouble-free power for decades.