

[Article] Solar Energy Pros & Cons: Advantages and Disadvantages,

Forbes, June 24, 2024

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Important: *This article was rewritten to make it easier for students to understand.*

Solar Energy Pros & Cons: Advantages and Disadvantages,

Solar energy is becoming more popular. Big companies and people are using solar power in buildings and homes. Solar power is good for the environment and comes from the sun. But, there are good and bad things about using solar energy. Here are pros and cons to help you decide if solar energy is right for you.

What Is Solar Energy?

Solar energy is power we get from the sun. We use special panels called solar panels to catch sunlight and turn it into electricity. These panels have tiny cells that take in sunlight and make electricity. You can put solar panels on roofs or in open spaces where there is lots of sun.

Advantages of Solar Energy

Renewable Energy Source

Solar energy is renewable, meaning it will never run out because the sun always shines. Fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas will run out one day because there is only a limited amount. Solar power can keep providing energy as long as the sun is in the sky. This makes it a reliable source that we can depend on for a long time.

Reduces Electric Bill

Using solar energy can make your electric bill lower. You make your own electricity with solar panels, so you don't have to buy as much from the power company. This means you save money each month. Over time, the savings add up and help you keep more money in your pocket.

Energy Independence

If you use only solar power, you don't need the power company. This means you can still have power if there is a power outage. You can also store extra solar energy in batteries to use at night or on cloudy days. This makes sure you always have electricity when you need it, even if the main power goes out.

Increases Home Value

Homes with solar panels are worth more money. If you save \$1 on your electric bill, your home's value can go up by \$20. Homes with solar panels also sell for more money than homes without them. This is because the new owner will save money on their electric bill, which makes the home more valuable.

Long-Term Savings

Solar panels cost a lot to install, but they save you money over time. Most people save enough on their electric bills to pay for the panels in six to ten years. After that, the savings continue, which means you get free electricity from your solar panels for many years. This helps you save a lot of money in the long run.

Low Maintenance Costs

Solar panels need little care once they are set up. They don't have moving parts, so they don't break often. As long as you keep them clean, they will work for many years. This means you don't have to spend a lot of money on repairs or maintenance, making them a low-cost option over time.

Disadvantages of Solar Energy

High Cost of Solar Panels

Solar panels are expensive to install. The average cost for a home system is about \$18,000 before any tax credits or incentives. This high initial cost can be a barrier for many people. Even though they save money in the long run, the upfront cost is a lot to handle at once.

Disadvantages of Solar Energy (Continued...)

Sunlight Dependent

Solar panels need sunlight to make electricity. If you live in a place with a lot of cloudy days, solar panels might not work as well. Batteries can store extra energy for cloudy days, but they can be costly. Without enough sunlight, solar panels can't produce the electricity needed, making them less effective in some areas.

Installation Can Be Difficult

Putting in solar panels can be hard. It involves working on the roof and with electricity, so it's usually best to hire professionals. The process can be complicated and take a lot of time. This makes it harder for people who want to install the panels themselves.

Space Constraints

Solar panels need space to work well. You need enough sunny space on your roof or in your yard to put the panels. If you have a small roof or live in a crowded area, finding enough space can be a problem. This limits the amount of solar energy you can generate.

Solar Energy Storage Is Expensive

Solar batteries store extra energy made during the day for use at night. These batteries can be very expensive. The cost of batteries adds to the overall expense of using solar power. Without batteries, you can't store the extra energy, which means you might run out of power when you need it most.

Environmental Impact of Manufacturing

Making solar panels can harm the environment. Mining materials and making the panels create greenhouse gases. However, using solar panels can make up for this environmental cost in about one to four years. The benefits of using clean energy eventually outweigh the harm caused during manufacturing.

Difficulty With Relocation

Moving solar panels to a new house is hard and costly. They are usually best for a long-term stay at one house. If you plan to move soon, taking the panels with you can be very expensive and complicated. It's often easier to leave them behind and install new ones at your new home.

Scarcity of Materials

While sunlight is unlimited, the materials needed to make solar panels are not. Mining these materials can hurt the environment, and there might not be enough materials for everyone in the future. This can make it harder and more expensive to produce solar panels as demand increases.

Disposal or Recycling Options

Solar panels have some harmful substances in them. Proper disposal is important, but there are not many options for recycling solar panels right now. This means old panels can end up in landfills, which can harm the environment. Finding better ways to recycle solar panels is important to reduce their environmental impact.

Conclusion

Solar energy has many good things, like saving money and helping the environment, but there are also challenges, like high start-up costs and needing the right conditions. Knowing both the good and bad can help you decide if solar energy is right for you.