



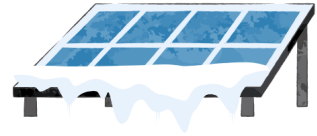
# Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association

We Move Minnesota Solar + Storage Forward

## Busting the Most Common Myths About Solar in Minnesota

### 1. Myth: Solar doesn't work in Minnesota

**Fact:** Minnesota's cold and snowy weather doesn't prevent solar panels from using the sun's rays to produce energy. In fact, colder temperatures actually help improve the solar system's efficiency! Snow typically melts off panels in a few hours, especially on tilted arrays which helps the snow slide off.



### 2. Myth: Solar can't be recycled

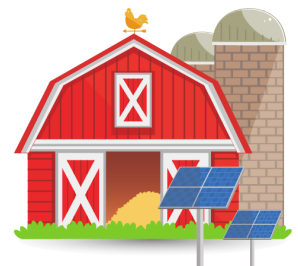


**Fact:** Solar panels can be recycled domestically at the correct facilities—there's a recycling plant right here in Minnesota! Panels typically consist of glass, aluminum, copper, silver, and semiconductor materials that are easy to recover and reuse. Additionally, panels can often be refurbished for a "second life" of generating electricity after their lifespan of 20–30+ years.

### 3. Myth: Solar uses Minnesota's prime farmland

**Fact:** Minnesota has over 25.5M acres of farmland, of which 16.7M acres are "prime." We could power 70% of Minnesota's electrical load with 22 GW of solar, which is approximately 220,000 acres of land. If all of this solar were to be sited exclusively on prime farmland, it would still only use 1.32% of the land considered "prime."

Solar developers and farmers work together to put solar where it makes sense—farmers know their land and don't want to take good, crop-growing fields out of production. Native pollinators and crops can be grown under solar panels too—with often better growing results!



### 4. Myth: Solar panels are made with slave labor in China

**Fact:** Minnesota is home to Heliene, a local solar panel manufacturer in Mountain Iron, Minnesota. The American solar panel manufacturing industry is constantly growing and Heliene recently expanded. The Inflation Reduction Act encourages American-made panels and is expected to help the sector expand rapidly.

The national SEIA is leading a huge industry-wide effort to prevent forced labor in the solar supply chain. This includes supply chain transparency and a pledge, signed by the majority of solar companies, to ensure products are not sourced from the Xinjiang region of China.

**5. Myth: If the sun isn't shining, solar isn't working**

**Fact:** Solar panels still produce some energy on cloudy or snowy days. Their efficiency may drop, but Minnesota has enough sunny days to make solar a worthwhile investment. Energy storage, or even an electric vehicle battery, also helps by storing excess energy from the day and using it at night.



**6. Myth: Solar makes our electrical grid weak and prone to blackouts**

**Fact:** Solar energy strengthens the resiliency and reliability of our grid by providing another source of power. Energy storage further supports the grid by storing energy and deploying it during peak usage hours (during winter storms, for example.)

**7. Myth: Solar takes away jobs**

**Fact:** The solar industry employs nearly 5,000 Minnesotans and the overall clean energy sector provides our state with 58,000 family-sustaining jobs. Solar Installer is one of the fastest growing jobs in the country and doesn't require a college degree.

**8. Myth: Solar is bad for my community**

**Fact:** Solar leads to job opportunities, tax benefits, energy resilience, lower electricity bills, opportunities for farmers, cleaner cities, and much more!



**9. Myth: Solar is only for rich people**

**Fact:** Over the last decade, the average cost of solar has dropped by 70%, making solar a cost effective clean energy option. Additionally, many of Minnesota's utilities, like Xcel Energy and Minnesota Power, have low-income programs to make solar accessible for more Minnesotans.

**10. Myth: Solar is unsafe**

**Fact:** Significant research has found that solar is safe for soil, animals, water, and humans. Solar panels do not leak compounds into the ground as the solar cells are sealed with an aluminum or steel frame and are proven to be safe.

**11. Myth: Solar is partisan**

**Fact:** Polling data shows **85%** of Minnesotan voters support accelerating the growth of clean energy in our state. Other states are modeling programs after our nation-leading community solar garden program, which was a bipartisan effort in 2013. All communities in Minnesota are positively impacted by solar and the growth of the industry, and people across the aisle are realizing it.

