



Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association

We Move Minnesota Solar + Storage Forward

Does Solar Energy Work in Minnesota?

When you think of solar energy, you may first think of sunny places like California. But did you know that Minnesota ranks 16th in the nation for installed solar capacity? Despite our infamous winters, the Land of 10,000 Lakes is a great place for solar and produces plenty of it.

Q: Does Solar Work in Cold Weather and Climates?

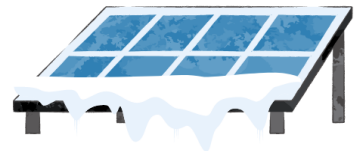
A: Yes! Minnesota's cold and snowy weather does not prevent solar panels from using the sun's rays to produce energy. In fact, colder temperatures actually help improve the solar system's efficiency. Hot temperatures can overheat the systems, lowering their efficiency and capturing less energy. Solar exists in cold climates around the world - from Canada and Alaska to Norway and Germany!



Q: Will Snowfall Prevent Solar Production?

A: No! In general, snowfall will not stop solar energy production. When a light snowfall occurs, sun rays can penetrate through the snow onto the panels. During cold clear days, the extra layer of snow on the panels actually acts as a mirror. It reflects sunlight onto the panels and leads to increased energy production.

The tilted angle of most panels allows snow to easily slide off and requires little maintenance. When a heavy snowfall occurs, gently brushing off the panels is helpful to keep producing energy.



Q: What Happens to Solar Production on Short Winter Days?

A: During winter, Minnesota experiences reduced hours of sunlight a day. Although this does decrease the amount of time a solar panel is working at full efficiency, the amount of sunlight available in Minnesota is more than enough to make it worth the while. Adding energy storage will make the solar array even more efficient. Batteries store excess energy from when it's sunny to deploy later at night or when it's cloudy.

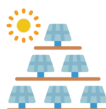
Q: Why is This Important?

A: Solar is an important industry in Minnesota and misconceptions hurt local businesses and workers. There's plenty of sunshine in Minnesota to provide clean energy across the state; creating family-sustaining jobs, making our grid more resilient to winter storms, and more.



5,000 jobs

Solar Installer is the fastest growing job in the U.S



1.7 GWs

Of solar - Enough to power over 230k homes!



\$2.5 BN

Solar investment in the state



#16 in the U.S

For installed solar capacity