



- Facts and information from Northport Energy -

Why Solar? Why Now?

Solar is the cheapest and most abundant energy source in the world

In December 2016, the cost of building and installing new solar electricity generation dropped to \$1.65 per watt, narrowly beating out its renewable counterpart wind (\$1.66/Watt) and all its fossil fuel competitors.

Solar is an Economic Engine

Over 242,000 Americans work in solar - more than double the number in 2012 - at more than 10,000 companies in every U.S. state. In 2018, the solar industry generated a \$17 billion investment in the American economy.

The world gets it

Global solar power capacity grew 100x between 2002 and 2015.

The US gets it

99% of new electricity generation capacity added in the US in Q1 2016 came from renewable energy sources, 64% from solar. US solar energy industry added more jobs in 2015 than all the jobs added by the US oil, gas extraction and pipeline industries combined.

Over a million solar systems have been installed in the U.S. alone

In early 2016, the millionth solar system was installed in the U.S., notching a milestone that took 40 years for the photovoltaic industry to reach. However, the more notable story that came with this achievement is the forecasted timeline for the next million installations, which is expected to happen in the next two years.

The breakeven point with solar continues to shorten

The cost of solar has plummeted while the cost of grid electricity has continued to gradually rise, and the “break-even point” with solar has become more and more attractive.

Solar is available even if your property is not solar friendly

More and more utilities across the county are offering “community solar” projects where you can purchase solar power in a community owned central array where your portion of production is applied to your electricity bill.

Why Solar? Why Now? (continued)

Solar is one of the cleanest, most sustainable energy sources

Coal plants are the largest producers of carbon emissions, which contribute to global warming. Oil hurts the planet too. Each year in America alone, over one million gallons of petroleum spill into waterways, oceans, and groundwater. That's why solar power is so important—it can reduce pollution and harm to the environment.

A household rooftop solar panel system can reduce pollution by 100 tons of CO2 carbon dioxide in its lifetime—and yes, this includes the energy it took to manufacture the solar panels. Solar panels can improve future air quality for humans as well as the millions of birds, fish, and mammals that are negatively affected by pollution each year.

Solar works in Michigan

While Arizona and California are the sunniest states in America (no wonder they're also leading producers and consumers of solar energy) every square meter of our planet receives around 1,366 watts of direct solar radiation.

With over 100 companies installing solar in our state, thousands of home and business owners can testify that solar works here too. By the end of 2018 Michigan had over 150 MW (that's Million watts) of solar installed, enough to power over 150,000 homes.



Who is Northport Energy?

Northport Energy was founded in 2008 by local citizens who shared common interests and concerns relating to energy conservation and energy efficiency. Today, we are a diverse group of your friends and neighbors coming together to advocate for renewable energy.

What we do:

- Implement energy conservation and efficiency
- Conceive, support and promote community green projects
- Advise and advocate for progressive renewable energy policy
- Inform and educate individuals, households and communities

www.NorthportEnergy.org