



Myths vs. Realities of Residential Solar Power

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Many homeowners are exploring personal residential solar. While the price of panels has fallen 70% in the last decade, navigating the market can be tricky. To help you evaluate the investment, let's separate fact from fiction.

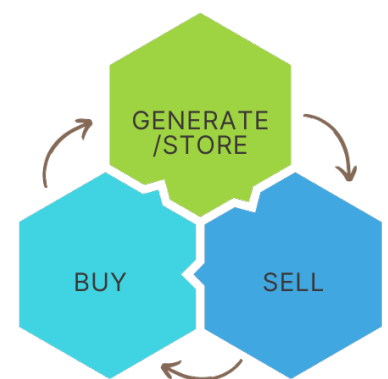
Myth 1: "I will never have an electric bill again."

The Reality: You will still receive an IMU bill. Solar panels only generate power when the sun shines. At night or on cloudy days, you rely entirely on IMU's grid. When you produce excess energy, IMU buys it back at our current rate, but you will still pay for the power you pull from the grid and standard service charges.

Your home uses power that's directly generated in real time from your panels when they're producing. With a battery wall, you can store power as well.

You sell excess energy produced but not stored back to IMU, which is returned to the grid and made available for use.

Residents purchase IMU's power when their solar panels aren't producing enough to cover their needs.



Myth 2: "If the power goes out, my solar panels will keep my lights on."

The Reality: Unless you have a specialized battery backup system, your panels will shut off automatically during a blackout. This is a critical safety feature that prevents your system from sending electricity back into the lines, protecting IMU crews while they work to restore power.

Myth 3: "Solar panels don't work in Iowa winters."

The Reality: Solar panels actually run more efficiently in cold weather than in extreme heat. While heavy snow can temporarily block sunlight, Iowa gets ample year-round sun, and snow typically slides off angled panels quickly.

Myth 4: "Cost savings are the best reason to install solar."

The Reality: Rooftop solar is a long-term commitment, not a rapid financial return. With significant upfront installation costs, it typically takes 10 to 20 years to recoup your investment.

The Real Benefits: It is best to view residential solar primarily as a long-term commitment to environmental sustainability rather than a rapid investment return. It is a powerful environmental choice—the average home system cuts over **11,000 pounds of CO2 emissions annually**.



Still have questions: Contact IMU!

Before signing a contract or paying a deposit, reach out to IMU. Many third-party installers make inflated generation promises that don't account for your specific roof pitch, shading, or local utility policies. Our team will help you review the fine print so you can make the right choice for your home.

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CUSTOMER REQUEST

Submit the Application for Interconnection (available at the IMU website or the office) with the processing fee.

IMU REVIEW

IMU notifies you of needed equipment or upgrades; the Customer-Owned Generation Facilities Interconnection Agreement is signed.

PERMITTING & CONSTRUCTION

Your contractor obtains all required permits and completes construction, then submits a Certificate of Completion to IMU.

COMPLETION & ACTIVATION

IMU installs the required bi-directional and production meters, and you begin generating solar power at your residence.

Contact IMU at (515) 961-9444 or visit our website to find the Interconnection Policy on IMU's Electric page: www.indianola.com/electric



Quick Summer Utility Savers

- **Set it to 78°F:**
Every degree you raise your thermostat saves up to 3% on cooling.
- **Flip the Fans:**
Run ceiling fans counterclockwise to create a cooling breeze.
- **Block the Sun:**
Close blinds on sun-facing windows to keep heat out.
- **Wash on Cold:**
Switching to cold water for laundry cuts appliance energy use by up to 90%.
- **Swap the Filter:**
A clean AC filter keeps your system running efficiently and lowers your bill.
- **Skip the Oven:**
Use a microwave, air fryer, or outdoor grill instead of the oven to keep extra heat out of the kitchen.

CONTACT IMU

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IMU RESOURCES

Online bill pay: my.imufiber.com/ebill/login
Report outage: indianola.com/outages
IMU board meetings: youtube.com/@indianolamunicipalutilities
Work for IMU: indianola.com/careers