MYTH BUSTERS

Dispelling Solar Myths
Myth #1
Solar panels require more energy to manufacture than they produce in their lifetime.

FACT:
The energy payback for photovoltaics is generally less than 4 years.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory report
MYTH #2
Solar won’t work in Canada because it is too cold.

FACT:
Solar panels and solar energy systems are powered by light, not heat.
MYTH #3
Solar wont work in Canada because there is too much snow.

FACT:
A study by NAIT showed solar panels which had snow removed only experienced 1% to 5% more production than ones left unmaintained.

Source: www.solarbuildmag.com
MYTH #4
Solar wont work when it is cloudy.

FACT:
Even when it’s overcast ultraviolet rays still reach the earth’s surface in abundance.
“I’d put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don’t have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that.”

Thomas Edison (1931) speaking to Henry Ford and Harvey Firestone
MYTH #5
Solar pv systems require large and expensive batteries.

FACT:
The majority of solar systems are grid tied and take advantage of net metering (both BC Hydro and Fortis BC).
MYTH #6
A solar system will damage my roof and cause leaks

FACT:
While most roof tied systems do require penetrations into the trusses, precautions are taken to prevent leaks using roof flashing kits and caulking.
MYTH #7
Solar is too expensive / is a poor investment.

FACT:
Generally, the break-even point is between 10 to 20 years. This is due in part to our relatively cheap hydro electric power. However, hydro rates continue to rise while the cost of solar has dropped more than 95% in the last 40 years.

![Solar Economics Diagram](image)
Get the most out of your solar pv system by self consumption = Solar power self-consumption is when your solar power system is creating electricity and you are using that power directly.
MYTH #8
Solar won't work in BC because we just don't get enough sunshine.

FACT:
Solar Production Potential in many areas of BC is higher than in Germany, the most solar advanced country in the world.
Solar Potential in BC

• The average solar power system in British Columbia will produce approximately 1004 kWh of energy per kW per year.*

• A 1 kW solar system in Thalmassing, Germany would produce 1111 kWh/yr

• In Vancouver would produce about 1,007 kWh/yr
• In Trail would produce about 1169 kWh/yr
• In Nelson would produce about 1164 kWh/yr
• In Creston would produce about 1278 kWh/yr
• In Cranbrook would produce 1373 kWh/yr
• In Bella Coola would produce 904 kWh/yr
KEEP CALM AND GO SOLAR
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www.empowerenergy.ca