

# Solar Panels: More Accessible, Less Costly

If you considered solar panels for your house but were deterred by the cost, **it's time take a second look**. Solar costs have dropped significantly and in some cases, there's no upfront cost. A Federal tax credit of up to 30%, good through December 31, 2019, just sweetens the deal. **Plus, solar panels could help you sell your house faster and for more money.**

Here are four things to know about residential solar:

## 1. Price drop

Many considered solar panels out of their league because of cost, but prices declined 29 percent between fourth quarter of 2015 and the fourth quarter of 2016, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association. Costs vary, depending factors like roof size and how much electricity you use, so get quote from a solar company for specifics on your house. Find a ballpark on solar costs and payback at EnergySage, [energysage.com](http://energysage.com).

## 2. Leases and farms

In some states, solar leases can give you the benefits of solar without a big cash outlay. Monthly payments on the lease make this a lower-cost option. Leases should be thoroughly reviewed and be sure you fully understand the terms before signing. When you sell, the lease can be transferred to the new home owner.

Community solar—a way for residents of a community to tap into and share the benefits of a solar “farm” without installing panels on their own homes—is becoming more common. The Community Solar Hub says 26 states now have community solar projects.

## 3. Misinformation

Solar myths abound. Among them:

**Myth:** Solar is too complex and unreliable.

**Truth:** Panels are reliable and technology advances are making them better every year. Nothing changes in how things in the house work. You're just generating power on site.

**Myth:** My city is too cold or cloudy for solar panels.

**Truth:** You don't need blazing sunshine every day. Solar works areas where it's cold, snowy, foggy, and cloudy. Check out if your home is a good candidate for solar with Google's Project Sunroof. [google.com/get/sunroof](http://google.com/get/sunroof)

## 4. Resale value

In 2015, National Renewable Energy Labs found that homes with solar panels on average sold 20% faster than other homes and for 17% more than non-solar homes. Solar panels also increase a property's perceived value, said 42% of brokers and agents surveyed in the 2017 REALTORS® and Sustainability report by the National Association of REALTORS®.

Learn more about residential solar at: [seia.org/consumer](http://seia.org/consumer)



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