# Benefits of Solar Energy on the Environment



## How does going solar benefit the environment?

**Answer:** Going solar reduces reliance on fossil fuels, cutting down greenhouse gas emissions like carbon dioxide. This helps prevent extreme weather changes, rising sea levels, and ecosystem destabilization. For instance, one home using solar energy for a year is equivalent to not burning over 8,000 pounds of coal.

# How Solar Energy Protects Our Environment And Our Health

If you've ever wanted to save money on utility bills, help the environment or improve your health, it's likely you've considered investing in solar panels for your home. In 2016, the Pew Research Center (PRC) found that 4% of homeowners had solar panels, but 40% were seriously considering adding them. Since 2016, those numbers have been steadily rising.

One of the main reasons people invest in solar energy for their home is to benefit the environment. In fact, according to the PRC, 87% of homeowners who have solar panels or who are considering solar panels reported that helping the environment contributed to their decision.

So, what kind of impact would going solar have? Would just one home make a difference?

## Environment

The United States EPA Gas Equivalencies Calculator translates abstract measurements of energy or fossil fuels to equivalent, understandable terms. According to the calculator, the average American home going solar for one year would be like:

- not burning over 8,000 pounds of coal
- not adding 12,500 pounds of carbon dioxide to the air
- growing 122 tree seedlings for 10 years
- not charging 937,683 smartphones, or

- driving 18,000 fewer miles.

Most of the nation's energy comes from fossil fuels like oil, coal and natural gas. Extracting energy from these fossil fuels results in damaging greenhouse gas emissions like carbon dioxide. The more fossil fuels burned, the bigger one's carbon footprint. This can result in extreme weather and temperature changes, rising sea levels, pollution and the destabilization of ecosystems.

Related post: *Commercial Solar, Make the Right Step Through Carbon Footprint Reduction* | *Can Solar Panels Be Recycled? How Does It Work?*

Because our trusty sun proves its constancy decade in and decade out, solar energy remains the cleanest and most renewable energy source available for our planet.
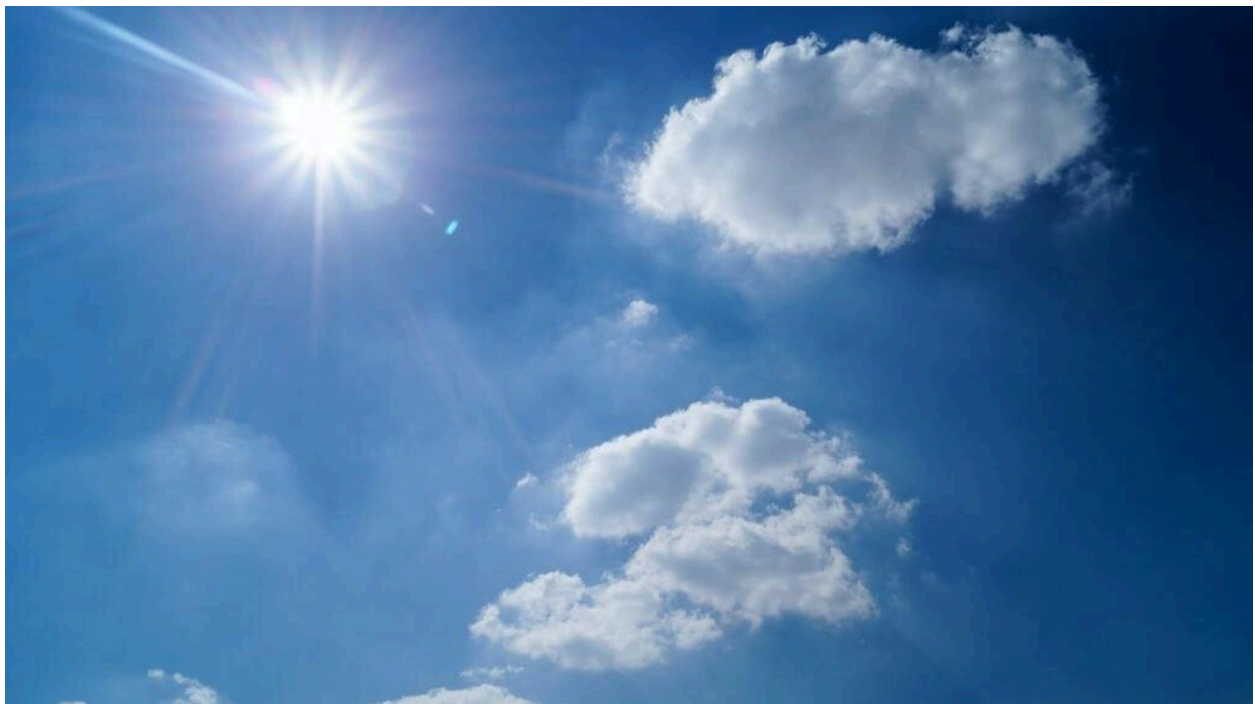
## Health

The more a household works to decrease their carbon footprint, the air pollutants they contribute to decreases. The air pollution caused by burning fossil fuels has adverse side effects on your respiratory and heart health. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), increased solar power will yield fewer cases of chronic bronchitis, respiratory/cardiovascular problems and lost workdays due to health problems.

However, these pollutants have been decreasing. According to The Utopian Life, the currently-installed solar panels already have lowered annual greenhouse gas emissions by 17 million metric tons. Researchers from Science Daily put it this way:

"Overall, the health and environmental benefits of this pollution reduction are worth an estimated $890 million from avoiding premature mortality and a range of other negative health outcomes."

Although increasing, solar energy only accounts for a small amount of the energy harvested to power our world. The sun provides enough energy in one minute to supply one year of earth's energy needs. We aren't capable of harvesting all of that energy yet, but the little bit we can do will help create a healthier earth with healthier people.

### FAQs

**How does going solar benefit the environment?**

Going solar reduces reliance on fossil fuels, cutting down greenhouse gas emissions like carbon dioxide. This helps prevent extreme weather changes, rising sea levels, and

ecosystem destabilization. For instance, one home using solar energy for a year is equivalent to not burning over 8,000 pounds of coal.

**What impact does solar energy have on air pollution?**

Solar energy reduces air pollutants by decreasing the need for fossil fuels, which are major sources of air pollution. This can lead to fewer cases of respiratory and cardiovascular problems, as well as reduced workdays lost due to health issues related to air pollution.

**How does solar energy contribute to health improvements?**

By lowering carbon emissions, solar energy helps reduce air pollution, which in turn decreases the incidence of chronic bronchitis and other respiratory and cardiovascular conditions. This results in better overall public health and fewer health-related work absences.

**What is the current impact of solar panels on greenhouse gas emissions?**

Installed solar panels have already reduced annual greenhouse gas emissions by 17 million metric tons. This reduction contributes to a cleaner environment and translates to significant health and economic benefits, including an estimated $890 million in savings from avoided premature mortality and other health issues.

At Big Dog Solar, we're passionate about powering your future with reliable, high-quality solar solutions. With expert craftsmanship and a commitment to innovation, we make switching to solar simple, affordable, and built to last.

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