



Indiana solar panel laws

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For too long, homeowners' associations (HOAs) have blocked many Hoosiers from installing solar panels on their own homes through unfair HOA rules against solar installations. In 2022, the Indiana state legislature passed a law to protect the property rights of Hoosiers who want to go solar. The law provides a clear path for homeowners in restrictive HOAs to get approval from their neighbors to install solar panels.

House Enrolled Act 1196 (or HEA 1196) protects anyone living in an HOA whose contract "prohibits, restricts, or limits the installation of solar energy systems by homeowners association members" or has unreasonably been denied a request to install solar panels. They can go through a two-step process to have their solar panels approved and then installed on their home.

If your HOA doesn't prevent solar installations, nothing has changed for you. However, if you find yourself running up against prohibitions or restrictions on solar installations, this new law is for you!

In other words, if it takes the signatures of 60% of the members of an HOA to change the HOA covenant, then a homeowner needs that same number of signatures to have their solar installation approved. However, if it takes (for example) the signatures of 75% of the members of an HOA to change the covenant, then a member wanting to install solar only needs signatures from 65% of the HOA members.

If you're still having problems after going through this process (for example, members of the HOA aren't cooperating) or the process is too stressful (for example, you have too many members in the HOA to reach the needed number of signatures), please let us know your story. Sharing your story can lead to great impact--and may even help future efforts to further expand the rights of property owners to install solar panels on their own home in Indiana.

Watch this video showing how persistent advocacy from Joey Myles, an Indianapolis solar owner motivated by his own personal struggles to install solar panels over objections from his HOA, helped to pass Indiana's HOA solar access law.

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Compared to many other states in the U.S., Indiana is lacking in solar legislation. The state previously offered a net metering program that paid Hoosiers for their excess solar production, but that benefit recently expired for new installations.

Even so, Indiana homeowners shouldn't be discouraged. Solar power can still greatly reduce their electricity costs over time and increase their property values. There are also still Indiana solar tax credits and



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other incentives available to help make a transition to solar power more affordable. This guide lays out the incentives Hoosiers should know about to make the best decision for their Indiana homes.

Installing a solar energy system is about more than simply purchasing the best solar panels for your Indiana home. If you're like most homeowners, you'll be looking for ways to save on your installation, too. There are no Indiana solar rebates at this time, but there are other incentives you can take advantage of.

If the value of your Indiana home increases after installing a solar power system (it usually will), your state property taxes won't increase because of it. Remember, though, that this doesn't mean you're exempt from paying state property taxes.

If you live in an area served by the Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), you can enroll in the NIPSCO feed-in tariff program. This program allows homeowners generating renewable energy to sell excess solar power back to NIPSCO for a credit of up to \$0.23 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Though the program has limited availability, it does offer homeowners a chance to earn credits to cover their traditional electricity usage.

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