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## **MythBusters: The Truth about Solar Energy**

**MYTH: “Solar only works in states like California—there’s not enough sun in Georgia.”**

**FACT:** Solar energy works in all 50 states—but it will work particularly well in Georgia. Georgia is ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation for its overall potential for solar power. Our state has much more sun than Germany—and they are ranked number one in the world for the amount of solar capacity they now have. In fact, Germany receives roughly the same amount of sunshine as Alaska whose capitol city only has 85 days of sun a year. Georgia is sunny—our capitol, Atlanta, has an average of 214 sunny days a year.

**MYTH: “Solar doesn’t work on cold, cloudy days. The lights will go out when the sun goes down.”**

**FACT:** If a solar owner wishes to use 100% solar energy, than there are battery options available for when the efficiency of solar panels decreases (e.g. nighttime, long spells of overcast days). However, the majority of solar owners are using solar energy to augment their current electricity and choose to remain connected to the electricity grid to allow for continuous service.

**MYTH: “Solar energy is too expensive for widespread usage.”**

**FACT:** Solar energy is already cost effective in many locations across America and homeowners and corporations alike are enjoying the savings. The price of solar modules has dropped 30 percent since the beginning of 2010 and as the industry continues to flourish, it will follow that downward trend. Furthermore, financing options make the installation of solar panels cost-effective. Savings on monthly utility bills will be immediate —and those savings will cover the initial installation cost in a very short time.

**MYTH: “If solar really works, it should not need government support.”**

**FACT:** The U.S. decided long ago to support energy sources since energy drives our economy. Every major energy source and technology has benefited from federal government subsidies, support and incentives of various types. Subsidies provided for solar are substantially less than subsidies provided for other forms of energy. The U.S. Department of Energy reports that, in 2010, total subsidies for electricity production were \$2.45 billion for nuclear, \$1.19 billion for coal, \$4.97 billion for wind and \$0.97 billion for solar.

**MYTH: “Solar is just a fad—no one is actually using solar.”**

**FACT:** Some of the largest companies in the world have buildings powered by solar energy including eBay, FedEx, WalMart, Google and the U.S. Air Force. The Chairman of the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission stated in 2011 that, “60% of the new U.S. generating capacity expected to be built by 2019 consists of wind and solar projects.”

**MYTH: “Solyndra’s bankruptcy means the entire solar industry is in trouble.”**

**FACT:** The Solyndra bankruptcy is not indicative of the health of our nation’s Solar Energy industry. Solyndra’s failings were not caused by solar energy, rather, they failed due to an unstable business model. Solyndra is not the only Solar Energy company out there. In fact, there is a thriving, competitive market and Georgia is home to more than 50 Solar Energy related companies.

**Contact your state legislator and tell them, “Solar works in Georgia and we want legislators who will stand up for a free market, private property rights and consumer choice. Now get to work with your fellow legislators to help Georgia realize our potential.”**

Your legislators name here: \_\_\_\_\_

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