



Solar Energy Myths & Facts

***MYTH:** Solar is growing because it is subsidized but can't compete in the marketplace*

FACT: Solar is growing because of declines in production costs and increasing consumer demand. All sources of electricity are subsidized and supported by government policy. Fossil fuel production continues to receive significant incentives at the federal level, and nuclear energy is the beneficiary of myriad state and federal policies like the SC Baseload Review Act and the federal production tax credit. The primary policy support for solar consists of state and federal tax incentives.

***MYTH:** Solar is intermittent and can't be relied upon*

FACT: No one energy source is capable of meeting all of our energy needs. Utilities have a portfolio of options available to them that provide electricity at different times and at different levels. Solar has proven itself to be an abundant and reliable option for meeting a portion of energy demand across the country and in neighboring states.

***MYTH:** Solar requires utilities to build back-up generation*

FACT: The utility system as it exists today can accommodate a large amount of new solar, as evidenced by the North Carolina experience and requirements for new solar ordered by the Georgia Public Service Commission. The lower levels of solar penetration that South Carolina could expect to deploy over the next decade would not require utilities to build back-up generation.

***MYTH:** Solar is too expensive*

FACT: Solar has become competitive with traditional resources and represents a viable option for homeowners, businesses, churches, schools, and utilities to meet part of their energy demand from the sun. Costs for solar are expected to continue declining while utility rates are expected to continue increasing.

***MYTH:** Solar customers are being subsidized by other utility customers*

FACT: No benefit-cost analysis has been done in South Carolina to determine the exact value that customer-owned solar represents for the utility and its other customers. However, many analyses conducted in neighboring states and across the country have concluded that solar represents a net benefit for utilities and their overall customer base.

Consumers Want More Solar...

U.S. Should Place "More Emphasis" on Each Source of Domestic Energy Production, by Region

	All Americans	East	Midwest	South	West
	%	%	%	%	%
Solar power	76	79	75	74	78
Wind	71	74	75	65	72
Natural gas	65	62	58	68	68
Oil	46	38	43	53	46
Nuclear power	37	38	28	42	38
Coal	31	25	27	40	28

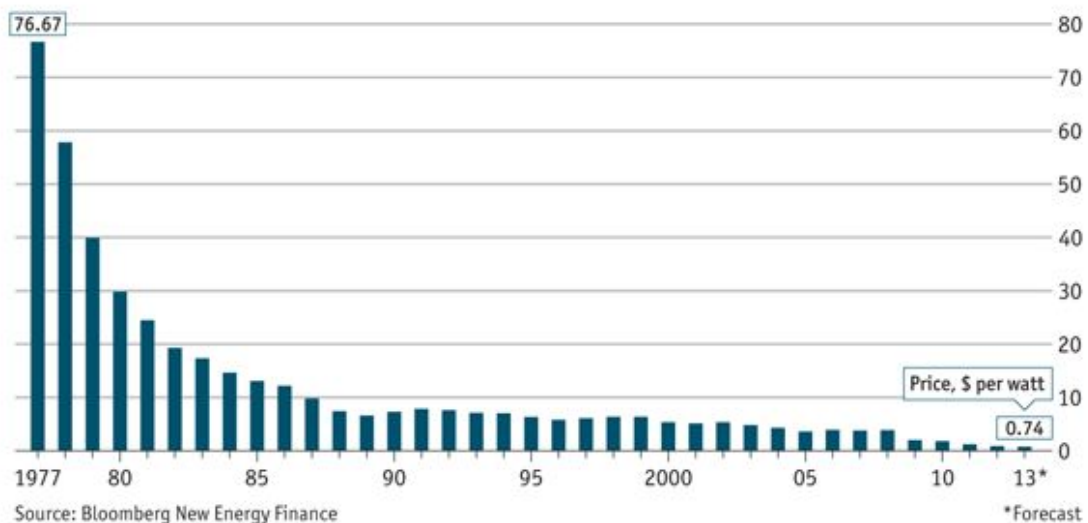
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GALLUP®

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/161519/americans-emphasis-solar-wind-natural-gas.aspx>

And The Price Is Right.

Price of crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells, \$ per watt



Economist.com/graphicdetail