

A solar rooftop system includes panels, conduit leading to an inverter and hooked into the main electric panel. With optional battery backup, the inverter is capable of detecting grid failure and using the battery to power the home, but usually the solar home is pouring energy into the grid at the time it needs it most: daytime peak usage.

The initial cost of solar power is high, but the solar homeowner is ahead of the game right from the start, having increased the property value of the home by about double the cost.

The California Solar Rights Act exempts the solar improvement from being assessed against property taxes, it's one home improvement that does not raise home or commercial property tax bills.

Your money goes into hardware on your roof, which is yours to keep, instead of going away every month in payments to the utility.

The amortized cost of solar is, in general, lower than the old utility bill. There are a lot of solar roofs in Long Beach.

Prior versions of the State Solar Rights law forbids frivolous objections to solar homes based on appearance alone. Homeowner Associations' CC&R explicitly mention, allow and regulate the appearance of solar panels. Some legitimate restrictions: color to be blue or black; if ground-mounted, cannot be visible from the street; conduit must be painted.

In 2004, Governor Schwarzenegger signed AB2473, which explicitly strengthened the law and extended provisions to municipal entities.

"...The Solar Rights Act (CA Civil Code 714), passed in 1978, bars restrictions on the installation of solar systems...Additional key changes minimize aesthetic solar restrictions to those that cost less than \$2,000 and limits building official's review of solar installations only to those items that relate to specific health and safety requirements of local, state and federal law..."

<http://ev1.org/linksrl.htm>

Long Beach must join the pro-active cities that:

1. Commit to Energy Efficiency;
2. Outreach to home, apartment and business owners promoting solar;
3. Dispense solar information for all roofing applications, and all new building applications;
4. Develop an ombudsperson, charged with smoothing and helping the solar installation process.

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