

Maryland Survey: Solar Power Experiences & Advancements

throughout its life span as well as more information on reliability.

Solar Benefits

The general consensus when it comes to the benefits of solar power is that the saved energy costs in terms of reducing utility bills is worth the installation. Many participants also stated that using solar makes them feel better about their carbon footprint and the benefits to the planet as a whole.

In addition, there are several grant programs here in Maryland that will help with costs of installation as well as tax incentives at the federal level for those who use solar power. For more information on how to finance solar power on your property, go to <https://www.energy.sage.com/solar/financing/>

Additional Helpful Links

Maryland Energy Administration

<https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/Info/renewable/solar.aspx>

The Equiery's April 2016 Solar Article

<http://equiery.com/going-green-solar-power/>



Brave Venture Farm

There are 99 solar panels on one side of the 110-foot barn at Brave Venture Farm (Carroll County) that were installed by American Solar Company. "Excellent installation, easily monitored on computer and they service and maintain," said Jane Sachetti. "We got a 50% tax credit several years ago on the entire purchase price and they have been well worth the investment. BGE actually pays us at the end of each year." The system on the barn also powers Sachetti's 6,000 square foot home. "American Solar provides a lifetime guarantee," she added saying that the one time she needed a repair, the company came out within 24 hours to fix. Sachetti recommends owning the panels outright versus leasing them.



Brooke Grove Farm

After Brooke Grove Farm (Montgomery County) lost its indoor during the 2010 "snowmageddon," owner Dr. Charles Mess decided that the new indoor would be better than the old. This included "going green" as much as possible, which meant utilizing the massive roof to produce energy for the farm. His 52 panel 10.92 kW system, installed by the now defunct Greenspring Energy Company, was manufactured by Schuco Solar Electric System. The system has provided most of the farm's entire electrical needs, virtually eliminating monthly electrical bills. In 2010, the system cost \$58,000 to install, which was reduced by approximately \$30,000 in federal, state and county tax credits and/or grants. Now ten years old, the system has only needed servicing once, and Dr. Mess was able to easily find another company to do so.