

Affordable Electricity Act of 2026 – Vote YES for HB146

Background:

Rising electricity costs are negatively impacting Wyoming families and households. The Affordable Electricity Act **allows Wyomingites to access low-cost electricity to offset rising energy costs** through small-scale, affordable home solar kits that plug directly into a standard household outlet — termed “plug-in solar”.

Plug-in solar has grown to scale in Germany, with more than four million users — many hanging panels from apartment balconies. However, regulatory uncertainty has prevented the technology from taking off in the U.S. and reaching economies of scale. Utah recently became the first state to **unanimously pass** legislation allowing “plug-in solar” systems to be legally installed.

HB146 allows residents to plug in up to 1,200 watts of solar power directly into a standard 120V, 15-amp outlet for personal use. That’s enough to power common household appliances like hair dryers, microwaves, or coffee makers any time the sun is shining. Since panels generate power for many hours each day, it really adds up. The bill bypasses the costly and cumbersome permitting requirements associated with traditional rooftop solar installations. Users can set up panels wherever the sun shines — on a backyard stand, along a fence or wall, or on a balcony.

Talking Points:

- **HB146 helps Wyomingites save money on utility bills** and cope with rising electricity costs. By offsetting approximately 10–15% of the average Wyoming home’s energy use, plug-in solar gives families another voluntary tool to lower their bills. The energy savings are similar to insulating and air-sealing an attic or upgrading to a more efficient HVAC system.
- **HB146 is accessible to all Wyomingites — not just homeowners or higher-income households.** Plug-in solar’s low price point and versatility open the market to renters and people across a wider range of financial backgrounds — without subsidies or costs to other ratepayers.
- **HB146 establishes smart safety standards while reducing unnecessary red tape.** From automatic disconnection from the grid during power outages, to components meeting UL safety standards, HB146 uses established and recognized home electronic certifications to ensure public safety.
- **Plug In Solar is distinctly different from rooftop solar and the state’s Net Metering policy.** Unlike Net Metering, residents with plug-in solar systems connect directly to a building’s electric system and offset immediate electricity consumption on site. There is no interconnection agreement and no way to accumulate, or earn credit, for electricity.