

# ACT NOW TO SAVE ROOFTOP SOLAR IN WYOMING!

**Tell your senator to vote no on SF 16**

## BACKGROUND

Net metering is a policy that allows owners of small, on-site renewable energy systems (homes, schools, and businesses) to get credit for the extra power they supply to the electricity grid. For example, when a homeowner's rooftop solar panels generate more power than what is needed on sunny days, the excess electricity is sent to the grid and can be used by neighbors. The Wyoming Senate is considering a bill ([Senate File 16](#)) that would:

- 1. Favor big out-of-state monopolies over small home-grown, Main Street businesses in Wyoming.**
- 2. Require the Public Service Commission to propose a new set of lower rates for rooftop solar customers based on the unproven assumption that net-metered customers are being subsidized by other utility ratepayers.**
- 3. Fail to consider the many benefits that small-scale renewables have for businesses, local governments, and residents of Wyoming.**
- 4. Prevent new job growth and investment in renewable energy at a time when small businesses and Wyoming communities need it most.**

**What's more, these changes fly in the face of *hundreds of Wyoming citizens who have stood up again and again for the existing net-metering statute*** and believe that people should receive fair credit for the energy they produce. If allowed to pass, SF16 would have devastating consequences for the future of rooftop solar in Wyoming and the ability of residents, small businesses, and local governments to benefit from producing their own renewable energy.

***Tell your senator to VOTE NO on SF 16!***

## KEY TALKING POINTS

- **Wyomingites deserve a fair deal** for energy they produce on systems that they paid for, own, and maintain. Rooftop solar has health, social, and environmental benefits that far outpace other forms of energy production. A fair ratemaking process must consider the numerous benefits of net metering, and not just treat it like a cost or "subsidy."
- **Small-scale rooftop solar does not impact our coal, oil and natural gas industries.** Solar panels on homes are tiny installations (average size 5 kilowatts) to help people save money on electricity bills. Coal-fired plants are industrial scale facilities (sizes range 500 - 2,500 megawatts) that sell most of their power out of state.
- **Stand for the people — not the investor-owned utilities.** Monopoly utility companies have been the only public supporters of the anti-net metering agenda. Meanwhile, hundreds of Wyoming citizens — teachers, students, ranchers, small businesses, and local government officials have gone on record opposing changes to our net-metering statute. Legislators need to listen to their constituents.
- **Wyoming should not limit the growth of the fastest growing industry and job market in the United States.** Wyoming ranks 43rd in the country for solar jobs per capita, yet has the eighth best solar

resource in the nation. We need to diversify our economy and support innovation in the private sector to close this gap. We also need policies that help grow jobs and keep Wyoming as a viable place to make a living in a 21st century economy.

- **Unfairly targeting net-metered consumers limits energy choice for Wyomingites.** Net metering is an important tool that gives Wyomingites the ability to choose how they get power. This policy ensures that small-scale energy systems are accessible to a range of Wyoming homes and businesses and allows local governments to save taxpayer dollars.
- **If it's not broke, stop trying to fix it.** People who have invested in these systems are frustrated at repeated attempts by their government to curtail private investment despite the lack of evidence that net metering is causing any harm to other utility customers.
- **Wyoming can grow the rooftop solar industry without harming other utility customers.** Net metering is responsible for less than six one hundredths of one percent (0.06%) of all retail electric sales in Wyoming. This is roughly the same capacity as 2-3 average-sized wind turbines currently being installed by utilities like Rocky Mountain Power. Net-metered facilities are not having a noticeable impact on the rates of other power customers.
- **The largest solar owners are local governments, businesses, and nonprofits.** These entities are relying on the cost savings from their investments in solar to weather through an era of budget cuts and economic downturn. Additionally, property valuation increases when solar is added to a home or ranch or business. That increases long-term property tax income which is adding dollars to the state's budget during these revenue-strained times.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The Senate will discuss this bill on the floor Wednesday January 27th. Please contact your senator and urge them to **VOTE NO on SF 16**. Even a short sentence or two will make an impact. *In your comments, please be respectful and concise, and speak from your experience, values, and hopes for the future of Wyoming.*

***Finally, don't be discouraged! Persistence is key.*** We know this topic keeps coming up at the legislature but the only way we'll succeed is to continue pushing back and reminding our elected officials that Wyomingites care about net metering. So, thank you for your continued words and actions. We'll keep you updated over the course of the legislative session.