

CONSIDERING LEASING SOLAR PANELS?

Top 4 Issues You Should Ask About

1. CONTRACT? DO I HAVE TO SIGN A CONTRACT? IF SO, WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES?

- How long is the contract?
- How do I pay (draft, check, credit card, etc.)
- What if I break the contract, stop paying or I pass away, what happens?
- What happens if I sell my home? Does the contract end? If not, who pays?
(NOTE: You should consider getting a lawyer to review the contract BEFORE signing.)

2. COSTS? PLEASE COVER EVERYTHING I HAVE TO PAY

- Who pays for work permits with the county and/or city? How much?
- Who pays Flint for the distributed generation administrative fee of \$500?
- Who pays for installing disconnect switches & other required equipment?
- What are my monthly payments? Is it a fixed amount or does it change? Does it increase?
- What will my monthly payments be 5 years from now? 10 years from now? 20 years from now?
- Will my property taxes go up because of the solar panels?
- Will my home insurance go up?
- If I have to replace my roof (for old age or hail damage), who pays to remove & then replace the solar panels?
- How much will I continue to pay Flint every month? Is that a set amount or does it change?
- What happens when the sun does not shine as much in the winter or during rainy periods? Does my cost increase for the lease or for payments to Flint?
- If I break the contract, explain penalties that I will pay. Will a lien be placed on my home?

3. OPERATION?

- Will holes be drilled in my roof? If so, what happens if my roof start leaking? Who will I call?
- How will I know if the panels are working or how much energy is being generated?
- If the solar panel breaks, who repairs it? How quickly? What do I have to pay? Who will I call?
- When the power goes out at Flint, will the solar panels still power my home?
- Do the solar panels have a warranty? Does the warranty cover my roof, too?
- Is the solar power generated during the day stored for night usage? What happens at night?
- Who is responsible for keeping the solar panels clean?

4. SOLAR LEASING COMPANY?

- How long has your company been doing business in Middle Georgia?
- Where are other locations in this area that have installed your solar panels that I can look at?
- Are you licensed to do business in Georgia? Are your installers licensed professionals?
- If I have problems, who do I call? Where are they located? How long will it take for a response?

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Things Flint Members Should Know

PRIOR TO HAVING SOLAR PANELS INSTALLED:

- By law, you or the solar company must give Flint 30 days advanced notice
- Be certain to comply with local ordinances & permits, as well as homeowner association rules & Flint's Service Rules & Regulations
- Complete & submit to Flint an "Application for Operation of Distributed Generation"; For homes, the solar panels cannot exceed 10 kW
- Following approval of Application,
 - Execute "Net Metering & Interconnection Agreement" with Flint
 - Submit distributed generation administrative fee of \$500
 - Execute "Recordable Notice of Agreement" for filing at county courthouse

PRIOR TO THE SOLAR PANELS BEING CONNECTED, FLINT WILL:

- Install a new metering package to accommodate "net metering" for the solar panels
- Confirm that a disconnection switch has been installed for the safety of Linemen during outages, as well as protection for the solar system, the electric system & anyone working on the solar panels

AFTER THE SOLAR PANELS ARE OPERATIONAL:

- The solar energy generated by the panels will be "net metered" to offset the energy used in your home.
- Any excess energy generated will be compensated a 2.871¢/kWh (4/1/18)
- In the event of a power outage on the electric system, the solar panels will be disconnected for the sake of safety & will not be producing energy for the home or putting energy back onto the grid

IF SOLAR PANELS ARE NOT RIGHT FOR YOU RIGHT NOW, CONSIDER:

- Asking Flint for an "Energy Audit" to look for ways to reduce electric use
- If you have a heat pump or center heat & air, install a "smart thermostat" which is one of the best ways to help reduce electric bills
- Invest in more insulation in your attic or crawl space
- Use "LED" bulbs for your lighting