

FAQs

Common Solar Misconceptions

Are solar panels noisy?

No. Solar panels do not create [noticeable noise](#).

Do solar panels cause a great deal of glare?

No. Glare is not produced by solar panels. Solar panels reflect about [2 percent of incoming light](#) due to their anti-reflective glass front surfaces.

Do solar panels help protect our environment?

Power generation is the second largest source of climate pollution in the U.S., accounting for about a quarter of all carbon pollution. Solar power [provides renewable](#), carbon-free electricity that will help protect our environment. In addition to improving air quality, solar panels [also reduce water use](#) and have minimal impacts on local wildlife.

Does the production of solar energy systems rely on critical minerals from other countries?

Solar energy systems require critical minerals to develop solar panels and batteries. Traditionally, the production of critical minerals has come from other countries, but recent initiatives from public and private investments have shifted the U.S. to domestically produce these critical materials. The [domestic production of critical minerals](#) in the United States has increased through the funding of [projects and initiatives](#). The federal government [announced](#) initiatives to match the growing need for critical minerals, meeting with companies such as Tesla and Redwood Materials to decrease dependence on other countries in the development of clean energy projects.



Elm Branch Solar Project (163 MW)
Ellis County, Texas | Solar production began in Q4 2021
Source: Lightsource bp