



# Rooftop solar power scam revealed

Is rooftop solar a bad business?

The rooftop solar business is a big source of consumer complaints. Across the country, prosecutors are investigating sales practices and financing arrangements. Now the solar industry is working to repair its reputation.

Why are prosecutors investigating rooftop solar?

Across the country, prosecutors are investigating high-pressure sales tactics and misleading financing arrangements. Some customers say they were victims of fraud and forgery. This threatens rooftop solar's impressive momentum. Now, some solar companies are working to repair the industry's reputation.

Does rooftop solar have a fraud problem?

Rooftop solar has a fraud problem. The industry is working to build back trust. A crew installs a solar array on the roof of a home in Frankfort, Ky., in 2023. PHILADELPHIA -- The solar power industry is booming and that growth helps the world meet its climate goals by replacing fossil fuels.

Are customer complaints a problem in the solar industry?

Customer complaints against the country's residential rooftop solar industry have increased dramatically in recent years. One-star ratings on Solar Reviews increased more than 1,000% since 2018. Across the country, prosecutors are investigating high-pressure sales tactics and misleading financing arrangements.

Are solar customers victims of fraud & forgery?

Across the country, prosecutors are investigating high-pressure sales tactics and misleading financing arrangements. Some customers say they were victims of fraud and forgery. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau recently warned solar customers about hidden fees and deceptive statements about the financial benefits of solar.

Is rooftop solar a good idea?

"We think that having rooftop solar is good for the environment and does save people money. We don't want people deceived, though," says Adam Welle, a lawyer with the Minnesota Attorney General's Office who is pursuing a case against solar financing companies.

Statistics from solar marketing firm EnergySage show that for the last half of 2023, fees for the most popular loan averaged 47% of the cost of a rooftop solar panel installation. That can add ...

CfA's review of the complaints revealed a widespread pattern of apparent fraud and abuse by solar companies. ... the Bureau of Consumer Protection at the Federal Trade Commission to ...

In some cases, way more than you probably need. According to our calculations, the average-sized roof can



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produce about 21,840 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of solar electricity annually --about double the average U.S. ...

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