

New Study Reveals Solar Panels Can Last Over 40 Years; SolarEnergies.ca Reports on Major Implications for Canadian Homeowners

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A groundbreaking European study confirming that solar panels can operate effectively for more than three decades is shifting the entire conversation around renewable energy investment in Canada, according to an analysis released today by SolarEnergies.ca. The research, which found that solar panels installed in the late 1980s and early 1990s still retain over 80% of their original power, effectively doubles the expected productive lifespan of solar technology and significantly enhances the long-term financial benefits for homeowners. Vitaliy Lano, an owner of SolarEnergies.ca, stated that these findings provide definitive proof that a solar investment is not just a 25-year commitment but a generational asset that provides energy security for Canadian families.

The comprehensive study, highlighted in publications like Chemistry World, analyzed six photovoltaic systems across Switzerland that have been in continuous operation for over 30 years. It was discovered that the panels' performance declined by an average of just 0.24% per year, a rate nearly three times slower than

the previously accepted industry standard of 0.5% to 1%. This minimal degradation means that the vast majority of the tested panels, even those built with decades-old technology, were still performing far beyond the limits of their original 25-year warranties. The researchers credited the high quality of the manufacturing materials as the primary factor in their remarkable longevity, a point that Lano suggests has profound importance for the Canadian market. ?This is the moment the industry has been waiting for,? Lano expressed. ?For years, we?ve seen anecdotal evidence of panels outlasting their warranties, but this study provides the hard data to back it up. We can now confidently tell homeowners that they are not just buying a product; they are investing in a durable power plant for their roof that will serve their family for 40 years or more. This changes the entire financial equation and makes the choice to go solar more compelling than ever before. It?s a powerful message of durability and long-term value.?

The implications for Canadian property owners are particularly encouraging. A common misconception is that Canada?s harsh weather, with its heavy snow and extreme temperature fluctuations, is detrimental to solar panels. However, the Swiss study indicates the opposite may be true. Researchers found that panels installed at lower altitudes, which experienced higher surface temperatures, degraded more quickly due to thermal stress. Lano commented that this finding directly supports the viability of solar in Canada. ?The data shows that extreme heat is a bigger enemy to solar panels than cold,? Lano explained. ?In fact, solar panels operate more efficiently in colder temperatures. Modern panels installed today are built to withstand significant snow loads and are tested against hail, so the Canadian climate is not the barrier people think it is. This study reinforces that Canada is one of the best places to invest in solar for the long run.? SolarEnergies.ca further noted that the panels being installed today utilize advanced monocrystalline PERC technology, which is significantly more resilient and efficient than the older models examined in the study, suggesting their lifespan could be even longer.

This new understanding of solar panel longevity comes at a pivotal time for the Canadian solar industry, especially as federal incentives have recently changed. The closure of the popular Canada Greener Homes Loan program has left some homeowners uncertain about the affordability of solar. However, SolarEnergies.ca?s analysis suggests that the extended lifespan dramatically improves the lifetime return on investment, making alternative financing options highly attractive. ?Homeowners should not be discouraged,? Lano added. ?While the federal loan was a great catalyst, the fundamental value of solar has just been proven to be twice as good as we thought. A system that produces free electricity for 40 years provides enormous financial relief and stability. When you factor that into the equation, financing through a HELOC or an installer?s program becomes an incredibly sound financial decision. The question is no longer just ?do solar panels pay for themselves?? but ?how much more will they pay you over 40 years???

With an extended operational life, questions about long-term maintenance and end-of-life management become more important. The SolarEnergies.ca report clarifies that maintenance remains minimal, with the most significant expected cost being the replacement of the system?s inverter, which typically has a lifespan

of 10 to 15 years. The panels themselves require little more than occasional cleaning and inspection. Looking even further ahead, the report highlights the growing industry for solar panel recycling in Canada. Over 95% of a solar panel?s materials, such as glass, aluminum, and silicon, can be recovered and repurposed, creating a sustainable, circular economy. Lano concluded with an optimistic vision for the future. ?What we are building is a truly sustainable energy future. We now have proof that the technology is durable enough to last for generations, and we are developing the infrastructure to ensure that at the very end of their long life, these panels are recycled responsibly. Every homeowner who makes this choice is contributing to a cleaner legacy and a more resilient Canada. It?s an incredibly hopeful and empowering message, and it?s why we believe so strongly that Canada goes Solar.?

For more information about solar energy in Canada, visit the SEIC's website.

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Solar Energies In Canada SEIC

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