

## Homeowner in disbelief after HOA sends violation notice of solar panels two years after installation: 'Check your state laws'

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When you buy a house, it's yours, right?

You can pick the flowers you want in your yard, the color of your front door, and where to install your [electric vehicle](#) charger or [solar panels](#). Well, that's not always the case when your community is managed by a homeowners association, otherwise known as an [HOA](#).

A Reddit user [posted](#) about a recent run-in with their [HOA](#) and was told they needed to move their solar panels to a different part of the house despite installing them two years ago.

Many HOAs across the country have demanded homeowners [remove solar panels](#) or have [selectively enforced bylaws](#) on installation locations. Nevertheless, more than half of the U.S. states have legal protections for homeowners looking to install solar panels.

In June, Michigan [joined 29 other states](#) and Washington D.C. in barring HOAs from banning rooftop solar panels.

According to the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency, Illinois has laws that [protect homeowners who install solar panels](#) on their properties. However, under these laws, HOAs and other residential oversight associations can specify where the solar panels reside.

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HOAs have long stood in the way of people making [money-saving home improvements](#) or even [eco-friendly yard projects](#). Illinois, in particular, has made it [illegal for HOAs to control homeowners' laws](#). For tips on working to build an eco-friendly home within HOA regulations, or changing those guidelines, check out our [handy guide](#).

[One commenter](#) on the Reddit post argued that solar panels actually increase property value. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, your [home value increases](#) by \$20 for every \$1 you save on energy bills. Solar panels that save you \$500 per year could increase the value of your home by approximately \$10,000.

[Zillow conducted a study](#) in 2019 that concluded homes with solar panels sold for around 4% more.

In the Reddit post, [one commenter](#) said: "I don't think an HOA can legally make you remove solar panels; check your state laws."

[Another Redditor](#) agreed: "Chances are you're covered by law and the HOA can eat dirt."

You're making your home more sustainable, [saving money](#) on energy bills, and helping the environment. Let them eat dirt.