

Colorado's Solar Energy Jobs Increased by 13% in 2017

The State Ranks Ninth in the Nation for Solar Jobs

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Longmont, CO: A new study from The Solar Foundation shows that Colorado's solar energy jobs increased by 13 percent in 2017, while solar jobs across the U.S. declined by 3.8 percent. Colorado is quickly becoming one of the most progressive states in the nation when it comes to solar energy. It is currently ranked ninth in the nation for solar jobs. Many in the industry have expressed concern after President Donald Trump announced federal tariffs will be imposed on the relatively inexpensive solar imports coming to the U.S. from China, which will raise prices on U.S. consumers. Yet, Colorado appears to be one of the only states in the country with a solar market that continues to expand.

According to the study from The Solar Foundation, a non-profit and nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing the use of solar and solar-compatible technologies worldwide, the number of solar-related jobs in Colorado increased from around 6,000 in 2016 to nearly 7,000 by the end of 2017. This marks one of the largest increases in solar jobs per state in the country. Some emerging solar markets around the U.S. have stalled in recent months due to concern over President Trump's proposed tariffs on imported solar panels. New businesses and existing utilities have expressed trepidation about getting into the solar business while the price per panel is on the rise. While President Trump continues to promote the benefits of the tariffs, many in the industry are struggling to adapt. This leaves established solar markets like the one in Colorado to expand, as businesses like Southard Solar Energy & Construction continue to do business in the state, regardless of the economic decisions the Trump Administration decides to take.

As one of the leading solar energy installation and construction companies in the state of Colorado, Southard Solar Energy & Construction is responsible for staying on top of emerging trends in the industry. The company is strongly committed to reducing the state's dependence on fossil fuels, helping homeowners and small businesses incorporate solar into their energy portfolios. Residents and business owners throughout the state can create their own source of electricity, making a profit on the electricity they put back into the grid. Those interested in learning more about the benefits of solar energy can contact info@southardsolar.com.

About Southard Solar Energy & Construction: Southard Solar Energy & Construction has been serving Colorado's Front Range since 1987, providing homeowners and business owners throughout the state with access to solar panels, free site estimates, <u>installation services</u>, and information on various building and zoning permits. The company also specializes in constructing off-grid solar

energy properties and energy independent tiny homes. Southard Solar Energy & Construction proudly serves Frederick, Firestone, Longmont and the surrounding areas. For more information, all interested parties can visit southardsolar.com or send a message to info@southardsolar.com.

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