



IOWA CHAPTER

It Isn't OK for the Electric Company to Charge Me More If I Have Solar Panels!

Iowa municipal utilities can charge you more for electricity if you have installed solar panels than your neighbors who do not have solar panels.

You might say, "There ought to be a law about this." There is indeed a law and the law says it is OK.

However, we say this isn't OK. Furthermore, it's discriminatory.

In May 2018, Iowa's governor signed a law (SF2311) that removed municipal utilities from requirements that prohibited the utility company from discriminating against customers who own solar panels. The text of that change is:



Photo by Bill Eager, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

476.21 Discrimination prohibited.

A ~~municipality~~, corporation or cooperative association providing electrical or gas service shall not consider the use of renewable energy sources by a customer as a basis for establishing discriminatory rates or charges for any service or commodity sold to the customer or discontinue services or subject the customer to any other prejudice or disadvantage based on the customer's use or intended use of renewable energy sources. As used in this section, "renewable energy sources" includes but is not limited to solar heating, wind power and the conversion of urban and agricultural organic wastes into methane gas and liquid fuels.

What's more, customers of investor-owned utilities (Alliant and MidAmerican) and customers of rural electric cooperatives are not subject to this discrimination. The customers of these utilities are not charged more for their electricity if the customers have solar panels.

It is not OK to discriminate against solar panel owners by charging them more for their electricity.

It should not matter who provides your electricity or who your utility company is or who owns the company. When it comes to installing solar panels on your home or business, you should be charged the same for the electricity you use as the family or business that does not have solar panels. You cannot choose who your power company is. Discrimination should be illegal. The legislature needs to protect your rights to own solar panels and not be discriminated against.

What can you do?

1. Contact your state legislators and let them know that it is unacceptable to allow municipal utilities to charge solar panel owners more for the electricity that they use than someone who does not have solar panels and tell them to return municipal utilities to Section 476.21 of the Iowa code.

To find your state senator's contact information, see www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/senate

To find your state representative's contact information, see www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/house

To find your legislator, see www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find

2. Be sure to include the governor in your messages. Send a letter to the governor at 1007 E. Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50319. To electronically send a letter to the governor, you must use the governor's website <https://governor.iowa.gov/constituent-services/register-an-opinion>
3. If you receive your power from a municipal utility, tell the municipal board members that you do not want them to enact policies that charge a customer with solar panels more for the electricity they buy than they charge a customer without solar panels. Each municipal utility has a board of directors that is appointed by the mayor and city council. Check with your municipal utility to see who sits on the board.
4. While you are contacting your municipal utility board members, also tell your mayor and council that you do not want owners of solar panels to be discriminated against by your municipal utility.



Iowa Municipal Utilities

Afton Municipal	Grundy Center Municipal	Renwick Municipal
Akron Municipal	Guttenberg Municipal	Rock Rapids Municipal
Algona Municipal	Harlan Municipal	Rockford Municipal
Alta Municipal	Hartley Municipal	Sabula Municipal
Alta Vista Municipal	Hawarden Municipal	Sanborn Municipal
Alton Municipal	Hinton Municipal	Sergeant Bluff Municipal
Ames Municipal	Hopkinton Municipal	Shelby Municipal
Anita Municipal	Hudson Municipal	Sibley Municipal
Anthon Municipal	Independence Municipal	Sioux Center Municipal
Aplington Municipal	Indianola Municipal	Spencer Municipal
Atlantic Municipal	Keosauqua Municipal	Stanhope Municipal
Auburn Municipal	Kimballton Municipal	Stanton Municipal
Aurelia Municipal	La Porte City Municipal	State Center Municipal
Bancroft Municipal	Lake Mills Municipal	Story City Municipal
Bellevue Municipal	Lake Park Municipal	Stratford Municipal
Bigelow, MN Municipal	Lake View Municipal	Strawberry Point Municipal
Bloomfield Municipal	Lamoni Municipal	Stuart Municipal
Breda Municipal	Larchwood Municipal	Sumner Municipal
Brooklyn Municipal	Laurens Municipal	Tipton Municipal
Buffalo Municipal	Lawler Municipal	Traer Municipal
Burt Municipal	Lehigh Municipal	Villisca Municipal
Callender Municipal	Lenox Municipal	Vinton Municipal
Carlisle Municipal	Livermore Municipal	Wall Lake Municipal
Cascade Municipal	Long Grove Municipal	Waverly Municipal
Cedar Falls Municipal	Manilla Municipal	Webster City Municipal
Coggon Municipal	Manning Municipal	West Bend Municipal
Coon Rapids Municipal	Mapleton Municipal	West Liberty Municipal
Corning Municipal	Maquoketa Municipal	West Point Municipal
Corwith Municipal	Marathon Municipal	Westfield Municipal
Danville Municipal	McGregor Municipal	Whittemore Municipal
Dayton Municipal	Milford Municipal	Wilton Municipal
Denison Municipal	Montezuma Municipal	Winterset Municipal
Denver Municipal	Mount Pleasant Municipal	Woodbine Municipal
Dike Municipal	Muscatine Municipal	Woolstock Municipal
Durant Municipal	Neola Municipal	
Dysart Municipal	New Hampton Municipal	
Earlville Municipal	New London Municipal	
Eldridge Municipal	Ogden Municipal	
Ellsworth Municipal	Omaha Public Power District, NE	
Estherville Municipal	Onawa Municipal	
Fairbank Municipal	Orange City Municipal	
Farnhamville Municipal	Orient Municipal	
Fonda Municipal	Osage Municipal	
Fontanelle Municipal	Panora Municipal	
Forest City Municipal	Paton Municipal	
Fredericksburg Municipal	Paullina Municipal	
Glidden Municipal	Pella Municipal	
Gowrie Municipal	Pocahontas Municipal	
Graettinger Municipal	Preston Municipal	
Grafton Municipal	Primghar Municipal	
Grand Junction Municipal	Readlyn Municipal	
Greenfield Municipal	Remsen Municipal	