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## Smashing a Solar Myth

Fourth of July night is normally filled with fireworks, family, and fun. In the summer of 2012, after the fireworks ended, the night took a surprising turn for the Conrad family. A violent and unexpected storm, which included golf ball sized hail, ripped through their Cranberry community. As the hail struck their roof, Sean Conrad's concerns immediately turned to his recent investment. Just a year earlier, the Conrad's chose Energy Independent Solutions ("EIS") to install a 7.35 kW roof mounted solar array. The solar array provides 100% of the electricity used in their home and even provides a surplus of electricity that the Conrad's plan to utilize as a fuel source for their future electric vehicle, a 2014 Tesla Model X SUV.

On the day following the hail storm, Sean checked his solar array's energy production and was relieved to see his system producing energy at the normal level. To be safe he contacted "EIS" to visually inspect his solar array. To his relief, the solar panels were not damaged and withstood the impact of the golf ball sized hail. Later in the week, Sean's neighbor informed him that his roof would need to be completely replaced because of damage caused by the impact of the hail. To be cautious Sean had his roof inspected as well. To his dismay, even though the glass covered solar panels withstood the impact of the hail, his shingled roof did not fare so well. After having his insurance adjuster survey the damage, a total roof replacement was recommended. Sean would later find out that 14 of his neighbors also required total roof replacements from the hail storm. "EIS" was hired to temporarily remove the Conrad's solar array while the roofers completely replaced their roof. "EIS" then reinstalled the solar array.

The Conrad solar array is now 16-months old and has demonstrated a high level of performance by outperforming its expected energy production by 20%. The array has also demonstrated one very important fact that often goes unnoticed. The solar array is TOUGH! The solar panels installed in the Conrad's solar array are SolarWorld 245 W panels. SolarWorld has been building solar panels in the United States since 1975. "EIS" only installs the highest quality American made products and that starts with SolarWorld. The Conrad family's experience illustrates the durability and quality of the SolarWorld products, and puts to rest the myth that solar panels are not durable and cannot withstand the harsh Pennsylvania weather.

"I was both amazed and relieved to find out that my solar panels withstood the hail storm despite my roof being severely damaged. I'm glad I chose Energy Independent Solutions as my installer. If not, my solar array may have been comprised of inferior foreign-made solar panels that may have failed, and who knows if I would have been able to make a warranty claim on solar panels made outside the country, such as in China " – Sean Conrad