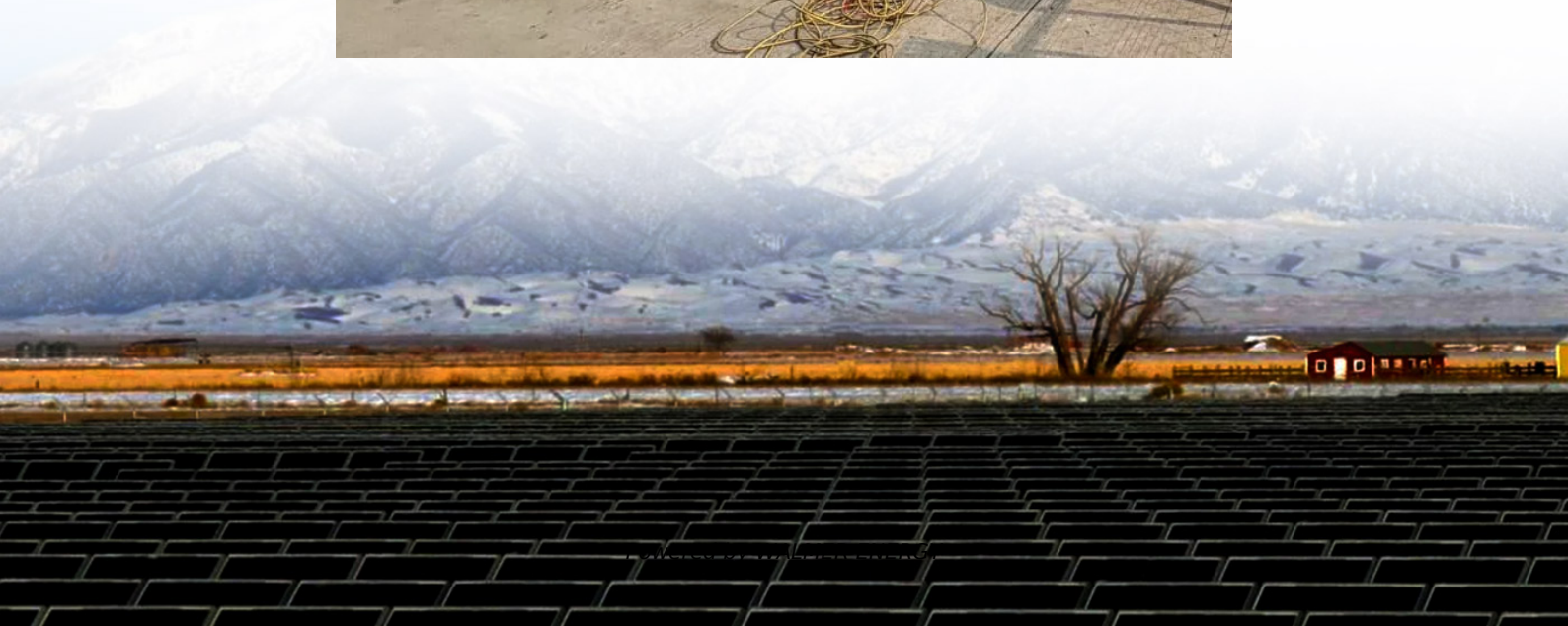


What do solar panels use to generate electricity





Overview

At a high level, solar panels are made up of solar cells, which absorb sunlight. They use this sunlight to create direct current (DC) electricity through a process called "the photovoltaic effect." How do solar panels generate usable electricity?

Solar arrays create a usable electricity system for your home by producing direct current (DC) electricity. This is achieved through the photovoltaic effect, where solar cells convert sunlight into electrical energy.

How is solar power produced?

Solar power is produced when energy from the sun is transformed into electricity or used to heat air, water or other substances. There are two main types of solar power technology, solar photovoltaic (PV) and solar thermal. Solar photovoltaic converts sunlight directly into electricity using a technology known as a semiconductor cell or PV cell.

How do solar panels work?

Solar panels work by converting sunlight into electricity through a process called the photovoltaic effect. This process produces direct current (DC) electricity, which then needs to be converted to alternating current (AC) electricity for your home to use.

How do solar PV panels generate electricity?

In conclusion, solar PV panels generate electricity by converting sunlight into electricity through the photovoltaic effect. This clean and renewable source of energy is becoming increasingly popular in the UK and around the world as a way to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change.



What do solar panels use to generate electricity

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Photovoltaics and electricity

Photovoltaic Cells Convert Sunlight Into ElectricityThe Flow of Electricity in A Solar CellIPV Cells, Panels, and ArraysPV System EfficiencyPV System ApplicationsHistory of PV SystemsA photovoltaic (PV) cell, commonly called a solar cell, is a nonmechanical device that converts sunlight directly into electricity. Some PV cells can convert artificial light into electricity. Sunlight is composed of photons, or particles of solar energy. These photons contain varying amounts of energy that



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/////////////////9/gMdvAAACnRSTIMAETNEVWAlmbvuo4D1oAAAAB9JREFUCB1jmMoABKuaQcSqQhCxKgFG
gLhNQIkpQAwA8zkLyQAI6F0AAAASUVORK5CYII=)}.mc_bc_w{height:18px;padding:8px;text-
align:right}.mc_bc{background-color:rgba(0,0,0,.75);padding:2px 8px;line-height:14px;color:#fff;di
splay:inline-block;vertical-align:middle;border-radius:2px;font-weight:bold}.mc_bc_w .pivot{text-
align:center;margin-right:1px;height:14px}.vsarr .mmgrid .mc_bc_w .mc_bc{background-color:rgba
(0,0,0,.75);opacity:1}.mmgrid>div{width:197px;display:inline-block;margin-right:8px;margin-
bottom:8px;box-shadow:0 0 0 1px rgba(0,0,0,.05);position:relative;vertical-
align:top;overflow:hidden;white-space:normal;border-radius:6px}.vsarr .mmgrid>div,.vsarr1stbig
.mmgrid>div{margin-right:8px;margin-bottom:8px}#serpvidansrr .mc_vtvc
.mc_vtvc_meta{height:auto}#serpvidansrr .mc_vtvc .mc_vtvc_title{display:-webkit-box;-webkit-line-
clamp:2;-webkit-box-orient:vertical}.mmgrid .mc_tc{border:0}.vsa .mmgrid>div:nth-
child(3n){margin-right:0}.vsa .b_moreLink{padding-top:4px}#serpvidansrr
.mc_vtvc_meta_row{line-height:18px;font-size:100%;height:17px}.vsarr .mmgrid>div:nth-
child(2n){margin-right:0}#serpvidansrr .mc_vtvc .vtmu,#serpvidansrr .mc_vtvc
.vtpl{bottom:128px}.vsarr1stbig .mmgrid>div:nth-child(2){margin-right:0}#serpvidansrr.uipolish
.mc_vtvc_meta_pubdate,#serpvidansrr.uipolish .mc_vtvc_meta_channel,#serpvidansrr.uipolish
#vidans2 .b_videocard .video_metadata .video_source{color:#767676}#serpvidansrr #vidans2
.b_videocard .video_metadata_container,#serpvidansrr #vidans2 .b_videocard
.video_metadata_container .video_metadata>h3{width:100%}@media(max-
width:1362.9px){#serpvidansrr .mmgrid>div{width:168px;height:206px}#serpvidansrr
.mmgrid>div .cico,#serpvidansrr .mmgrid>div .cico
.rms_img{width:168px;height:100px}#serpvidansrr .mc_vtvc
.mc_vtvc_meta{padding:12px}#serpvidansrr .mc_vtvc .mc_vtvc_title{height:32px;line-
height:16px;margin-bottom:16px}#serpvidansrr .mc_vtvc
.mc_vtvc_meta_block_area{height:34px}#serpvidansrr .mc_vtvc_meta_row{line-height:15px;font-
size:13px;height:15px}#serpvidansrr .mc_vtvc_meta_pubdate{padding-bottom:4px}#serpvidansrr
.mc_vtvc .vtmu,#serpvidansrr .mc_vtvc .vtpl{bottom:114px}#serpvidansrr #vidans2 .b_videocard
.videoPlayer,#serpvidansrr #vidans2 .b_videocard .videoPlayer .cico,#serpvidansrr #vidans2
.b_videocard .videoPlayer .cico .rms_img{width:343px!important;height:194px!important;margin-
right:0}}@media(max-width:1274.9px){#serpvidansrr
.mmgrid>div{width:124px;height:164px}#serpvidansrr .mmgrid>div .cico,#serpvidansrr
.mmgrid>div .cico .rms_img{width:124px;height:76px}#serpvidansrr .mc_vtvc
.mc_vtvc_meta{padding:8px}#serpvidansrr .mc_vtvc .mc_vtvc_title{height:32px;line-
height:16px;margin-bottom:12px}#serpvidansrr .mc_vtvc
.mc_vtvc_meta_block_area{height:28px}#serpvidansrr .mc_vtvc_meta_row{line-height:13px;font-
size:11px;height:13px}#serpvidansrr .mc_vtvc_meta_pubdate{padding-bottom:2px}#serpvidansrr
.mc_vtvc .vtmu,#serpvidansrr .mc_vtvc .vtpl{bottom:96px}#serpvidansrr #vidans2 .b_videocard
.videoPlayer,#serpvidansrr #vidans2 .b_videocard .videoPlayer .cico,#serpvidansrr #vidans2
```



```
.b_videocard .videoPlayer .cico .rms_img{width:256px!important;height:144px!important;margin-right:0}#serpvidansrr .maskthumb .mc_bc_w{padding:8px 4px 4px 8px}#serpvidansrr.withsplitline .mmgrid>div:nth-last-child(1),#serpvidansrr.withsplitline .mmgrid>div:nth-last-child(2){margin-bottom:24px}#serpvidansrr.withsplitline .mmgrid{border-bottom:1px solid #ececec;margin-bottom:16px}#serpvidansrr #vidans2 .b_videocard .video_metadata{max-width:auto;padding:12px 16px}#serpvidansrr #vidans2 .b_videocard{margin-bottom:12px;box-shadow:0 0 1px rgba(0,0,0,.05),0 2px 3px rgba(0,0,0,.1);border-radius:6px}#serpvidansrr .b_rich{padding-top:0}#serpvidansrr #vidans2 .videoPlayer{border-radius:6px 6px 0 0;overflow:hidden}#serpvidansrr #vidans2 .b_videocard .video_metadata>h3{white-space:nowrap;overflow:hidden;text-overflow:ellipsis;-webkit-line-clamp:1;line-height:15px;height:15px;font-size:13px;color:#000;margin-bottom:20px;font-family:Arial,Helvetica,Sans-Serif;font-style:normal;display:block}#serpvidansrr.vsarr1stbig #vidans2 .b_videocard .video_metadata .actionmenu{display:none}#serpvidansrr #vidans2 .b_videocard .video_summary,#serpvidansrr #vidans2 .b_videocard .video_source{line-height:15px}#serpvidansrr #vidans2 .b_videocard .videoPlayer .vtbc{right:0}.vrhc line.nhvpv .pffvi,.vrhc line.nhvpv[data-tps="S"] .pffvt,.vrhc line.nhvpv[data-tps="M"] .pffvt,.vrhc line.nhvpv[data-tps="L"] .pffvt{display:inline-flex}.vrhc line.nhvpv .vrhctc.pffv .vrhol{display:none}.vrhc line.nhvpv .vrhctc.pffv .player_ol{background:var(--mai-smtc-background-ctrl-on-image-hover);transition:background-color .5s;display:flex;align-items:center;justify-content:center;padding:var(--smtc-gap-between-content-x-small);gap:var(--smtc-gap-between-content-x-small);box-sizing:border-box}.mc_vtvc_th_img{transition:all .3s ease-out}.nhvpv+.mc_vtvc_th_img{transform:scale(1.1)}.smtplayerhtml5{height:100%;width:100%;overflow:hidden}.smtplayerhtml5 video{min-height:100%;min-width:100%}.smtplayerhtml5 .videoplaying{background-color:#000}.smtplayerhtml5.hide{display:none}.pffvt{display:none;color:var(--mai-smtc-foreground-ctrl-on-image-rest);font:var(--bing-smtc-text-global-subtitle2-strong)}.pffvi{mask:url(/rp/ui07wU6K7FR_inzG7DRbP1i8fGo.svg) center no-repeat;mask-size:12px;background:var(--bing-smtc-background-card-on-image-default);width:20px;height:20px;flex-shrink:0;align-self:flex-start}[data-tps="L"] .pffvt{font:var(--bing-smtc-text-global-subtitle2-strong)}[data-tps="L"] .pffvi{width:22px;height:22px;mask-size:16px}[data-tps="S"] .pffvt{font-size:0}[data-tps="S"] .pffvi{width:24px;height:24px;mask-size:24px;align-self:center}.hvpv.h5s .pffvt{display:inline-flex}.hvpv.h5s .vrhctc.pffv .vrhol{display:none}.hvpv.h5s .vrhctc.pffv .player_ol{background:var(--mai-smtc-background-ctrl-on-image-hover);transition:background-color .5s;display:flex;align-items:center;justify-content:center;padding:var(--smtc-gap-between-content-x-small);gap:var(--smtc-gap-between-content-x-small);box-sizing:border-box}.pffvt{text-decoration:underline}.vrhctc .vrhol{position:absolute;width:100%;height:35px;max-height:35px;bottom:0;left:0;padding:0;background:none;display:block;z-index:9}.vrhctc .vrhol.hide,.vrhctc .vrhol .hide{display:none}.vrhot{white-space:nowrap;text-overflow:ellipsis;overflow:hidden;display:inline-block;position:absolute;max-width:240px;height:18px;line-height:14px;margin-left:8px;top:10px;left:0;right:0;border-radius:2px;padding-right:8px}.vrhot div{display:inline-block}.vrhot nt{color:#fff;font-size:11px;font-weight:bold;background-color:rgba(0,0,0,.75);padding:2px 8px;margin-left:0;top:0;box-sizing:border-box;position:relative}.vrhc .ricons{position:absolute;right:8px;top:10px;left:auto;bottom:auto;height:18px;display:inline-block;cursor:pointer}.vrhol.icons_1 .vrhot{margin-right:27px}.vrhol.icons_2 .vrhot{margin-right:49px}.vrhol.icons_3 .vrhot{margin-right:79px}.vrhol .vrhot nt,.vsb_tr_chd .vrhol.icons_1 .vrhot{margin-right:0}.vpb{position:absolute;display:block;bottom:0;left:0;height:4px}.vpb div{position:absolute}.vpb nt{width:0;background:#fff}.vpb nt.test{display:none}.vpb.back{background-color:#999}.vrhctc .vrhol.npb{height:36px;max-height:36px}.vrhol .vadda{width:22px;height:18px;padding:0;margin-right:0;margin-left:2px;bottom:0;position:relative;display:inline-block;z-index:1;background:rgba(0,0,0,.75);border-radius:2px;overflow:hidden}.vrhol .vadda.hide{display:none}.vrhol .vadda .mc_vfaa{margin:3px
```



```
5px}.ricons .vol{float:left}.ricons .adultFlag{float:right}.vol{width:22px;height:18px;bottom:0;margin-left:1px;margin-right:1px;position:relative;display:inline-block}.vol.hide,.vol
.hide{display:none}.vol .bg{background:rgba(0,0,0,.75);border-radius:2px}.vol.bg,.vol
nt{position:absolute;bottom:0}.vol .vol.bg.volNb{border-radius:0 0 2px 2px}.vol
.volsliderHandle.bg{border-radius:2px 2px 0 0}.vol nt .volsliderHandle{height:70px;display:none;wi
dth:22px;float:left;bottom:18px;position:absolute;display:block}.vol nt
.volsliderHandle.hide{display:none}.volsliderHandle .vsb{height:54px;width:4px;background-
color:#999;margin:9px auto 8px;position:relative;display:block;border-radius:2px}.volsliderHandle
.vsh{height:6px;width:14px;padding:9px 7px 9px 7px;margin:0
-12px;display:block;position:absolute;top:30px}.volsliderHandle
.vsh.hide{display:none}.volsliderHandle .vshi{height:4px;width:14px;background-color:#fff;border-
radius:2px}.volMutelcon{width:16px;height:14px;margin:2px 4px;float:left}.volMuteHandle{width:
22px;height:18px}.vo{background:url(/rp/ffZxBXEIP9WYOO0jhTaElyLhEVU.svg) no-
repeat}.vm{background:url(/rp/fsX-ZVd03wB2TL0vmQJxSp4U9vs.svg) no-
repeat}.vl{background:url(/rp/YXYMPC1Rry_XJGc7Yg8IR4B2eEs.svg) no-
repeat}.vf{background:url(/rp/NosrIR4amKTS1zYxWy3laZN3HRk.svg) no-repeat}@media(forced-
colors:active){.vol{forced-color-adjust:none}.vrhc line .vt_vp,.vrhc.popout
.vt_vp,.vrhc.mousefollow .vt_vp{position:absolute;bottom:0;border:hidden;padding:0;top:0;left:0;z-
index:3}.vrhrc .hide{display:none}.vrh_clc .vt_vp,.vrh_clc .vrhrc .vrhi,.vrh_clc
.player_ol{cursor:pointer}.vrh_clc .cico{border-
radius:0}.vrhrc{border:hidden;top:0;left:0;padding:0}.vrhc.mousefollow .vrhrc,.vrhc.popout
.vrhrc{background-color:#999}.vrhrc.load .player_ol{background:url(/rp/_o2maogFDeUOsovPJL-
ofEuxJ4.gif) center center no-repeat}.vrhc line .vrhrc .vrhi,.vrhc.popout .vrhrc
.vrhi,.vrhc.mousefollow .vrhrc .vrhi{position:absolute!important;border:hidden;z-index:2;padding:0;l
eft:0;top:0}.player_ol{position:absolute;width:100%;height:100%;bottom:0;border:hidden;z-
index:7}.vrhc.popout,.vrhc line,.vrhc.mousefollow{border-radius:6px;overflow:hidden;display:table-
row-group;background:none}.vrhc.popout,.vrhc.mousefollow{z-index:4;box-shadow:0 4px 4px
rgba(0,0,0,.1),0 2px 80px rgba(0,0,0,.2)}.vrhc line{z-index:1;margin:0}.vrhc.popout,.vrhc
line{position:absolute;top:0}.vrhc.popout{border:1px solid
#fff}.vrhc.mousefollow{position:fixed}.vrhrcp{position:relative;top:0;left:0;display:table-row}.vrhrcp
.vrhrc{position:relative;overflow:hidden}.vrhc.hide{display:none}@keyframes
vh_fadein{from{opacity:0}to{opacity:1}}.vrhc.not(.hide){animation:vh_fadein 250ms}.vrhc line
img{color:transparent}.vrhc line.fullsize{height:100%}.vrhc,.vrhc: hover,.vrhc: link,.vrhc: active,.vrhc
: visited{color:#000;text-decoration:none}.vrhc.vrh_clc{cursor:pointer}a.hover-anchor{display: bloc
k;height:100%;width:100%;text-decoration:none}.vrhstat{height:0;overflow:hidden}Videos of What
Do Solar Panels Use to Generate Electricity?Watch video on energy.govSolar Photovoltaic
Technology Basicsenergy.govOct 30, 2020Watch video on MSN7:49From Silicon to Solar Power: The
Intricate Making of Solar PanelsMSNAwesome7 months agoWatch video on nasa.govHow NASA Uses
and Improves Solar Power - NASA Sciencenasa.govSep 26, 2024Watch full video.rcimgcol .cico {
background: #f5f5f5; } .b_drk .rcimgcol .cico, .b_dark .rcimgcol .cico { background: unset;
}.b_imgSet .b_hList li.square_m,.b_imgSet .b_hList li.tall_m{width:75px}.b_imgSet .b_hList
li.tall_mlb{width:113px}.b_imgSet .b_hList li.tall_mln{width:96px}.b_imgSet .b_hList
li.wide_m{width:128px}.b_imgSet.b_Card .b_hList li{padding-left:1px;padding-
right:9px}.b_imgSet.b_Card .b_hList li.tall_wfn{width:80px;padding-right:6px}.b_imgSet.b_Card
.b_hList li:last-child{padding-right:1px}.b_imgSet.b_Card .b_imgSetData{padding:0 8px
8px;height:40px}.b_imgSet.b_Card .b_imgSetItem{box-shadow:0 0 1px rgba(0,0,0,.05),0 2px 3px
0 rgba(0,0,0,.1);border-radius:6px;overflow:hidden}.b_imgSet .b_imgSetData p
a{color:#444;outline-offset:0}.b_subModule .b_clearfix.b_mhdr .b_floatR .b_moreLink,.b_subModule
.b_clearfix.b_mhdr .b_floatR .b_moreLink:visited,.b_subModule>.b_moreLink,.b_subModule>.b_more
Link:visited{color:#767676}.b_imgSet .cico.b_placeholder{display:flex;justify-
content:center;background-color:#f5f5f5;background-clip:content-box}.b_imgSet
.cico.b_placeholder a{display:flex}.b_imgSet .cico.b_placeholder a
```



img{width:48px;height:48px;margin:auto}@media(max-width:1362.9px){#b_context .b_entityTP .b_imgSet li:nth-child(5){display:none}.b_imgSet .b_hList li.wide_m:nth-child(3){display:none}}@media(max-width:1274.9px){#b_context .b_entityTP .b_imgSet li:nth-child(4){display:none}.b_imgSet .b_hList li.wide_m:nth-child(2){display:none}}.rcimgcol .b_imgSet{content-visibility:auto;contain-intrinsic-size:1px 124px}.rcimgcol{height:108px;padding-top:var(--smtc-gap-between-content-x-small);padding-bottom:var(--smtc-gap-between-content-x-small)}.b_algo:has(.b_agh) .rcimgcol{padding-top:var(--smtc-gap-between-content-xx-small)}.rcimgcol .b_imgSet{overflow:hidden}.rcimgcol .b_imgSet ul{overflow-x:auto;overflow-y:hidden;white-space:nowrap;padding-left:var(--mai-smtc-padding-card-default)}.rcimgcol .b_imgSet ul::-webkit-scrollbar{-webkit-appearance:none}.rcimgcol .b_imgSet .b_hList>li{padding-right:var(--smtc-padding-ctrl-text-side)}.rcimgcol .b_imgSet .cico{border-radius:unset}.rcimgcol .b_imgSet .b_hList>li:first-child .cico,.rcimgcol .b_imgSet .b_hList>li:first-child .cico a{border-radius:unset;border-top-left-radius:var(--smtc-corner-card-rest);border-bottom-left-radius:var(--smtc-corner-card-rest);overflow:hidden}.rcimgcol .b_imgSet .b_hList>li:last-child .cico,.rcimgcol .b_imgSet .b_hList>li:last-child .cico a{border-radius:unset;border-top-right-radius:var(--smtc-corner-card-rest);border-bottom-right-radius:var(--smtc-corner-card-rest);overflow:hidden}.rcimgcol .rcimgcol .b_sideBleed{margin-left:unset;margin-right:unset}.rcimgcol .b_imgclgovr{cursor:pointer}.rcimgcol .b_imgclgovr .cico img: hover{transform:scale(1.05);transition:transform .5s ease}#b_content #b_results>.b_algo .b_caption:has(.rcimgcol){padding-right:var(--mai-smtc-padding-card-default);margin-right:calc(-1*var(--mai-smtc-padding-card-default));margin-left:calc(-1*var(--mai-smtc-padding-card-default));padding-left:var(--mai-smtc-padding-card-default)}.rcimgcol .b_imgSet .b_hList .cico a{display:flex;outline-offset:-2px} sightsOverlay,#OverlayIFrame.b_mcOverlay sightsOverlay{position:fixed;top:5%;left:5%;bottom:5%;right:5%;width:90%;height:90%;border:0;border-radius:15px;margin:0;padding:0;overflow:hidden;z-index:9;display:none}#OverlayMask,#OverlayMask.b_mcOverlay{z-index:8;background-color:#000;opacity:.6;position:fixed;top:0;left:0;width:100%;height:100%}BritannicaSolar power , Definition, Electricity, Renewable Energy, Pros ...Nov 10, 2025 · Solar power is a form of energy conversion in which sunlight is used to generate electricity. Virtually nonpolluting and abundantly available, solar power stands in stark contrast ...

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