

Virtually nonpolluting and abundantly available, solar power stands in stark contrast to the combustion of fossil fuel and has become increasingly attractive to individuals, businesses, and ...

Solar technologies convert sunlight into electrical energy either through photovoltaic (PV) panels or through mirrors that concentrate solar radiation. This energy can be used to generate electricity or be ...

Solar cells connected together in photovoltaic modules (or solar panels) are the main mode of producing power with sunlight. In each cell, a material that generates an electric charge when hit by sunlight, ...

Solar power, also known as solar electricity, is the conversion of energy from sunlight into electricity, either directly using photovoltaics (PV) or indirectly using concentrated solar power.

OverviewPotentialTechnologiesDevelopment and deploymentEconomicsGrid integrationEnvironmental effectsPoliticsSolar power, also known as solar electricity, is the conversion of energy from sunlight into electricity, either directly using photovoltaics (PV) or indirectly using concentrated solar power. Solar panels use the photovoltaic effect to convert light into an electric current. Concentrated solar power systems use lenses or mirrors and solar tracking systems to focus a large area of sunlight to a hot spot, often to drive a steam turbine.

Photovoltaic Cells Convert Sunlight Into ElectricityThe Flow of Electricity in A Solar CellPV 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 correspond to the different wavelengths o...See more on eia.govPublished: Oct 1, 2024.iacfm

.iacf_head{display:flex;align-items:center;gap:var(--smtc-gap-between-content-small);text-decoration-color:var(--smtc-foreground-content-neutral-primary);box-sizing:border-box;margin-bottom:var(--smtc-gap-between-content-x-small)}.iacfm .iacf_head span{flex:1 1 0;white-space:nowrap;text-overflow:ellipsis;overflow:hidden;color:var(--smtc-foreground-content-neutral-primary);font:var(--bing-smtc-text-global-body3-strong)}.iacfm .iacf_head div{display:flex;height:22px;width:22px;justify-content:center;align-items:center;transition:background 300ms ease-out;margin-right:-3px;border-radius:var(--mai-smtc-corner-list-card-default);overflow:hidden}.iacfm .iacf_head .iacf_chv{color:var(--smtc-foreground-content-neutral-primary)}[dir="rtl"] .iacfm .iacf_head svg{transform:scaleX(-1)}.rel_ent_w{margin:4px 0 9px}.rel_ent_w .rel_ent_w:focus-visible{outline-offset:-6px}.rel_ent_w .rel_ent_crs{margin:6px 0 16px}.b_top .rel_ent_w{margin-top:-4px}.b_top .rel_ent_w .rel_ent_crs{margin-top:0}.b_mm_swipable

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le}a.rel_ent{display:inline-block;padding:0 16px 0 12px;margin:4px 8px 4px
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#ddd;text-decoration:none;overflow:hidden;height:40px;max-width:80vw}:not(#lgVidAnsContainer)>.aqptmt
.rel_ent_c a.rel_ent{overflow:initial;display:flex}.slide a.rel_ent{margin:0;box-shadow:none}.b_sidebar
.slide .rel_ent .cico,.rel_ent .cico,.rel_ent>img{display:inline-block;vertical-align:middle;margin:2px 8px 2px
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nt_w:not(.spl2) .rel_ent_t strong{display:inline-block;font-weight:normal}#b_results phead
.b_attribution{padding-bottom:8px}.iaplanner .b_moreLink{margin-top:11px}.iaplanner.iarnd
.b_moreLink{margin-top:3px}.b_ans .b_rich pserp.b_mBMargin{padding:0;border-top:0}.b_ans #vidans2
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.rel_ent_tw,.aqptmt:not(.spl2) .rel_ent_tw .rel_ent_t{font-size:16px}#b_content .iacfic.mmkiaacf .iacfmit
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a{text-decoration-color:var(--smtc-ctrl-link-foreground-brand-hover)}#b_content .iacfic.mmkiaacf .iacfmit
.imgInfo{font:var(--bing-smtc-text-global-body3)}#b_content .iacfic.mmkiaacf
.iacf_crs[ data-wptds-carousel]>div[ data-wptds-carousel-scroll-container]{padding-bottom:52px}#b_content
.iacfic.mmkiaacf .iacfmit{box-sizing:initial;padding-bottom:52px}#b_content .iacfic.mmkiaacf .iacfmit
.imgInfo{text-overflow:ellipsis;display:-webkit-box;-webkit-line-clamp:2;-webkit-box-orient:vertical;align-sel
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.acfImgAns
.iaExp_chevron{height:initial;border-radius:var(--smtc-corner-circular);background:var(--bing-smtc-backgrou
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var(--smtc-gap-between-content-small);display:flex;gap:var(--smtc-gap-between-content-x-small);justify-cont
ent:center;align-items:center}#b_content .acfImgAns .salink::before,#b_content .acfImgAns
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var(--smtc-stroke-ctrl-on-neutral-rest);width:100%;display:block;content:"";top:18px;position:relative}#b_con
tent .acfImgAns .svg{vertical-align:top}#b_content .acfImgAns
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.acfImgAns .svgicon{width:12px;height:12px;margin-left:0;position:relative;top:0}html[dir=rtl] #b_content
.acfImgAns .iachevron,html[dir=rtl] #b_content .acfImgAns .svgicon{transform:scaleX(-1)}#b_content
.acfImgAns .rel_ent_w a.rel_ent{border:1px solid var(--acf-stroke-neutral-decorative)}#b_content .acfImgAns
.iaheader .iacf_head{text-decoration-color:var(--smtc-foreground-ctrl-neutral-primary-hover)}#b_content
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svg{color:var(--smtc-foreground-content-neutral-primary);forced-color-adjust:auto}#b_content
.iacfic.mmkiaacf .iacf_plan .cico{border-radius:var(--mai-smtc-corner-card-default)}#b_content
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.iacfic.mmkiaacf{overflow:visible;padding:0}#b_content .iacfic.mmkiaacf
.iacf_crs[data-wptds-carousel]{margin:0;padding-bottom:var(--smtc-gap-between-content-medium)}#b_cont
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[data-wptds-carousel-controls]{--wptds-carousel-control-opacity:1}#b_content .iacfic.mmkiaacf
.iacf_crs[data-wptds-carousel]>div{padding:0}#b_content .iacfic.mmkiaacf .iacf_crs[data-wptds-carousel]
[data-direction="end"]{margin-right:-22px}#b_content .iacfic.mmkiaacf .iacf_crs[data-wptds-carousel]
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button{background:var(--smtc-background-card-on-primary-default-rest);box-shadow:var(--bing-smtc-shado
ws-card-hover-3);width:36px;border-radius:var(--smtc-corner-ctrl-lg-rest)}#b_content .iacfic.mmkiaacf
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button:active{background:var(--smtc-background-card-on-primary-default-pressed)}#b_content
.iacfic.mmkiaacf .iacf_crs[data-wptds-carousel] button svg{transition:initial}#b_content .iacfic.mmkiaacf
.iacf_crs[data-wptds-carousel] button svg
path{fill:var(--smtc-foreground-content-neutral-secondary);forced-color-adjust:auto}#b_content
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.b_ans.b_imgansacf{padding:0!important}#b_content
.b_ans.b_top.b_imgansacf{background-color:initial!important}#b_content .acfImgAns .iaheader
.iacf_head{gap:0;padding:var(--smtc-gap-between-content-medium)
0;display:flex;align-items:center;box-sizing:border-box}#b_content .acfImgAns .iaheader
.iacf_head:hover{text-decoration:none}#b_content .acfImgAns .iaheader .iacf_head:hover
span{text-decoration:underline}#b_content .acfImgAns .iaheader .iacf_head:hover
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ease-out;margin-right:-3px;border-radius:var(--smtc-corner-ctrl-rest);overflow:hidden;color:var(--bing-smtc-f
oreground-content-neutral-secondary-alt)}#b_content .acfImgAns .iaheader .iacf_head
span{width:initial;flex:none;font:var(--bing-smtc-text-global-subtitle1-strong);padding-inline-start:0;max-widt
h:90%;text-overflow:ellipsis;white-space:nowrap;overflow:hidden}#b_content .acfImgAns .iaheader
.iacf_head .iacf_chv{width:22px;justify-content:center;height:22px}#b_content .acfImgAns
.rel_ent_w{margin-top:0}#b_content .acfImgAns .rel_ent_w .b_slideexp{margin:0}#b_content .acfImgAns
.rel_ent_w .btn.rounded{top:initial;margin-top:1px}#b_content .acfImgAns .rel_ent_w
.btn.next{right:-14px}#b_content .acfImgAns .rel_ent_w
.cr>div{width:36px;height:38px;border-radius:var(--smtc-corner-ctrl-lg-rest);background:var(--bing-smtc-bac
kground-container);box-shadow:var(--bing-smtc-shadows-card-hover-3);border:initial}#b_content
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.b_viewport{padding-top:0;margin-left:0;padding-left:0}#b_content .acfImgAns .rel_ent_w .b_viewport
.slide{height:38px;margin-left:0;margin-inline-end:var(--smtc-gap-between-content-x-small)}#b_content
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lt-rest);padding-left:0;height:38px}#b_content .acfImgAns .rel_ent_w
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.rel_ent_w a.rel_ent:active{background:var(--smtc-background-card-on-primary-default-pressed)}#b_content
.acfImgAns .rel_ent_w .cico{margin:var(--smtc-gap-between-content-xx-small)
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var(--smtc-gap-between-content-xx-small)}#b_content .acfImgAns .rel_ent_w
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.acfImgAns .rel_ent_w .rel_ent_c
.rel_ent:first-child{margin-inline-start:var(--mai-smtc-padding-card-default);align-items:center}html[dir=rtl]
#b_content .acfImgAns .iaheader .iacf_head svg{transform:scaleX(-1)}html[dir=rtl] #b_content .acfImgAns
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a:focus .isp_imgcont img,.iacfm .iacfmit a:focus .iacfimgc img,.iacfm .iacfmit a:focus .iacf_smol{outline:3px
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.cico::after{content:"";position:absolute;left:0;top:0;width:100%;height:100%;background:rgba(0,0,0,.03)}.gs
_card .iacfmit img,.b_wpt_container .iacfmit img,.b_acf_card .iacfmit img{transition:transform .3s
ease-out}.gs_card .iacfmit:hover .iacfimgc img,.b_wpt_container .iacfmit:hover .iacfimgc img,.b_acf_card
.iacfmit:hover .iacfimgc
img{transform:scale(1.1)}.iacfic{position:relative;height:100%;width:100%;background:#fff;overflow:hidden
;border-radius:inherit}.iacf_plan{position:relative}.iacfmit
.mimg{width:100%;height:100%;position:relative}.iacfic .iacfmit{position:absolute}.iacfic .iacfmit
.cico{border-radius:0}.iacfca{padding:var(--mai-smtc-padding-card-default);box-sizing:border-box;overflow:
hidden;border-radius:var(--mai-smtc-corner-card-default)}.iacfca .iacf_crs
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```

.iacfmit{overflow:hidden;position:relative}.iacfca .iacf_crsl .iacfmit
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img{border-radius:inherit;transition:transform 300ms ease-out}.iacfca .iacf_crsl .iacfmit:hover .cico
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[data-wptds-carousel][data-default][data-variant="Normal"]{margin:0
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.iacfca{height:200px}[dir="rtl"] .iacfca .iacf_pag{transform:translate(50%,0)}.iacfm.iacfca
.iacf_crsl[data-wptds-carousel]
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;width:16px;transition:width .3s;background
.3s;color:var(--smtc-foreground-ctrl-neutral-primary-hover)}.iacfm.iacfca .iacf_crsl[data-wptds-carousel]
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```

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translateY(-50%)}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default],[data-wptds-carousel][data-default]::before,[data-wptds-
carousel][data-default]::after,[data-wptds-carousel][data-default] *,[data-wptds-carousel][data-default]
*::before,[data-wptds-carousel][data-default]
*::after{box-sizing:border-box;margin:0;padding:0}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default][hidden],[data-wptds-c
arousel][data-default]
[hidden]{display:none}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default][data-visually-hidden],[data-wptds-carousel][data-d
efault] [data-visually-hidden]{block-size:.0625rem;border:0;clip:rect(0 0 0
0);inline-size:.0625rem;margin:-.0625rem;overflow:hidden;padding:0;position:absolute}[data-wptds-carousel]
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ousel-control-box-shadow:0rem .125rem .1875rem rgba(0,0,0,.1);--wptds-carousel-control-fg-color:#767676;--wptds-carousel-control-size:2rem;display:block;po
sition:relative;block-size:100%}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default]
[data-wptds-carousel-scroll-container]{overflow-x:auto;overflow-y:clip;scroll-behavior:smooth;block-size:10
0%;-ms-overflow-style:none;scrollbar-width:none}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default]
[data-wptds-carousel-scroll-container]::-webkit-scrollbar{display:none}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default]
[data-wptds-carousel-scroll-container]:focus-visible{outline-color:Highlight;outline-color:-webkit-focus-ring-
color;outline-offset:.0625rem;outline-style:auto;outline-width:.0625rem}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default]
[data-wptds-carousel-list]{display:flex;gap:.5rem;list-style:none;block-size:100%}[data-wptds-carousel][data-
default] [data-wptds-carousel-list]>*>{flex-grow:0;flex-shrink:0}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default]
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[data-wptds-carousel-item]>img{display:block;inline-size:auto}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default]
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var(--wptds-carousel-control-size));inset-block-start:50%;transform:translateX(calc(0rem -
(var(--wptds-carousel-control-size)/2)))
translateY(-50%);display:flex;align-items:center;justify-content:space-between;pointer-events:none}[data-wpt
ds-carousel][data-default]
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[data-wptds-carousel-control]{cursor:pointer;inline-size:var(--wptds-carousel-control-size);aspect-ratio:1;displ
ay:grid;place-content:center;border-radius:50%;background-color:var(--wptds-carousel-control-bg-color);bord
er:.0625rem solid
var(--wptds-carousel-control-border-color);box-shadow:var(--wptds-carousel-control-box-shadow);color:var(-
-wptds-carousel-control-fg-color);opacity:var(--wptds-carousel-control-opacity);pointer-events:all}[data-wptd
s-carousel][data-default]
[data-wptds-carousel-control]:active{--wptds-carousel-control-bg-color:#fff;--wptds-carousel-control-border-c

```

```

olor:#ddd;--wptds-carousel-control-box-shadow:0rem .125rem .1875rem
rgba(0,0,0,.1);--wptds-carousel-control-fg-color:#767676}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default]
[data-wptds-carousel-control]:focus-visible{outline-color:Highlight;outline-color:-webkit-focus-ring-color;out
line-offset:.0625rem;outline-style:auto;outline-width:.0625rem}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default]
[data-wptds-carousel-control] *{pointer-events:none}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default]
[data-wptds-carousel-control]>svg{display:block}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default]
[data-wptds-carousel-control][data-direction="start">svg{transform:scaleX(1)}[data-wptds-carousel][data-de
fault]
[data-wptds-carousel-control][data-direction="end">svg{transform:scaleX(-1)}[data-wptds-carousel][data-de
fault]
[data-wptds-carousel-control][aria-disabled="true"]{visibility:hidden;cursor:not-allowed}[data-wptds-carousel
][data-default]
[data-wptds-carousel-announce]{block-size:.0625rem;border:0;clip:rect(0 0 0
0);inline-size:.0625rem;margin:-.0625rem;overflow:hidden;padding:0;position:absolute}[data-wptds-carousel]
[data-default][data-variant="Normal"],[data-wptds-carousel][data-default][data-variant="FullWidth"]{--wptds
-carousel-control-opacity:0}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default][data-variant="Normal"]:has([data-wptds-caro
usel-scroll-container]:focus-visible),[data-wptds-carousel][data-default][data-variant="Normal"]:has([data-wpt
ds-carousel-control]:focus-visible),[data-wptds-carousel][data-default][data-variant="FullWidth"]:has([data-w
ptds-carousel-scroll-container]:focus-visible),[data-wptds-carousel][data-default][data-variant="FullWidth"]:h
as([data-wptds-carousel-control]:focus-visible){--wptds-carousel-control-opacity:1}[data-wptds-carousel][dat
a-default][data-variant="Normal"][data-snap]
[data-wptds-carousel-scroll-container]{scroll-snap-type:x
proximity}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default][data-variant="Normal"][data-snap]
[data-wptds-carousel-item]{scroll-snap-align:center;scroll-snap-stop:always}[data-wptds-carousel][data-defau
lt][data-variant="Normal"][data-snap]
[data-wptds-carousel-item]:first-of-type{scroll-snap-align:start}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default][data-aria
nt="Normal"][data-snap]
[data-wptds-carousel-item]:last-of-type{scroll-snap-align:end}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default][data-variant
="FullWidth"]
[data-wptds-carousel-scroll-container]{scroll-snap-type:x
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[data-wptds-carousel-item]{inline-size:100%;scroll-snap-align:center;scroll-snap-stop:always}[data-wptds-car
ousel][data-default][data-variant="FullWidth"]
[data-wptds-carousel-item]:first-of-type{scroll-snap-align:start}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default][data-aria
nt="FullWidth"]
[data-wptds-carousel-item]:last-of-type{scroll-snap-align:end}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default][data-variant
="FullWidth"]
[data-wptds-carousel-item]> *{inline-size:100%}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default][data-bleed-inline]
[data-wptds-carousel-controls]{--control-side-gap:.25rem;inline-size:calc(100%
-
(var(--control-side-gap)*2));transform:translateX(calc(0rem +
var(--control-side-gap)))
translateY(-50%)}[data-wptds-carousel][data-desktop]
[data-wptds-carousel-control]:hover:not([aria-disabled="true"]):not(:active){--wptds-carousel-control-bg-color
:#fff;--wptds-carousel-control-border-color:#ddd;--wptds-carousel-control-box-shadow:0rem .125rem
.3125rem

```

```

rgba(0,0,0,.14);--wptds-carousel-control-fg-color:#111}[data-wptds-carousel][data-desktop][data-variant="Normal"]:has([data-wptds-carousel-scroll-container]:hover),[data-wptds-carousel][data-desktop][data-variant="Normal"]:has([data-wptds-carousel-control]:hover),[data-wptds-carousel][data-desktop][data-variant="FullWidth"]:has([data-wptds-carousel-scroll-container]:hover),[data-wptds-carousel][data-desktop][data-variant="FullWidth"]:has([data-wptds-carousel-control]:hover){--wptds-carousel-control-opacity:1}[dir="rtl"]
[data-wptds-carousel][data-default] [data-wptds-carousel-controls]{transform:translateX(calc(0rem + (var(--wptds-carousel-control-size)/2))) translateY(-50%)}[dir="rtl"] [data-wptds-carousel][data-default]
[data-wptds-carousel-control][data-direction="start"]>svg{transform:scaleX(-1)}[dir="rtl"]
[data-wptds-carousel][data-default]
[data-wptds-carousel-control][data-direction="end"]>svg{transform:scaleX(1)}[dir="rtl"]
[data-wptds-carousel][data-default][data-bleed-inline]
[data-wptds-carousel-controls]{transform:translateX(calc(0rem - var(--control-side-gap))) translateY(-50%)} .b_dark [data-wptds-carousel][data-default],.b_drk
[data-wptds-carousel][data-default]{--wptds-carousel-control-bg-color:#484644;--wptds-carousel-control-border-color:#545250;--wptds-carousel-control-box-shadow:0rem .125rem .1875rem
rgba(0,0,0,.1);--wptds-carousel-control-fg-color:#d2d0ce} .b_dark [data-wptds-carousel][data-default]
[data-wptds-carousel-control]:active,.b_drk [data-wptds-carousel][data-default]
[data-wptds-carousel-control]:active{--wptds-carousel-control-bg-color:#484644;--wptds-carousel-control-border-color:#545250;--wptds-carousel-control-box-shadow:0rem .125rem .1875rem
rgba(0,0,0,.1);--wptds-carousel-control-fg-color:#d2d0ce} .b_dark [data-wptds-carousel][data-desktop]
[data-wptds-carousel-control]:hover:not([aria-disabled="true"]):not(:active),.b_drk
[data-wptds-carousel][data-desktop]
[data-wptds-carousel-control]:hover:not([aria-disabled="true"]):not(:active){--wptds-carousel-control-bg-color:#605e5c;--wptds-carousel-control-border-color:#545250;--wptds-carousel-control-box-shadow:0rem .125rem .3125rem
rgba(0,0,0,.14);--wptds-carousel-control-fg-color:#faf9f8}.gs_card .iacfic .iacfmit .iacfimgc,.gs_card .iacfic .iacfmit .cico,.b_wpt_container .iacfic .iacfmit .iacfimgc,.b_wpt_container .iacfic .iacfmit .cico{width:100%;height:100%;border-radius:0}.gs_card .iacfic .iacfmit.iacfstc
img,.gs_card .iacfic .iacfmit .iacfimgc img,.b_wpt_container .iacfic .iacfmit.iacfstc img,.b_wpt_container .iacfic .iacfmit .iacfimgc img{width:100%;height:100%;object-fit:cover}#slideexp3_AA7C85 .slide {
margin-right: 8px; }#slideexp3_AA7C85c .b_slidebar .slide { border-radius: 6px; }#slideexp3_AA7C85
.slide:last-child { margin-right: 1px; }#slideexp3_AA7C85c { margin: -4px; } #slideexp3_AA7C85c
.b_viewport { padding: 4px 1px 4px 1px; margin: 0 3px; } #slideexp3_AA7C85c .b_slidebar .slide {
box-shadow: 0 0 0 1px rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.05); -webkit-box-shadow: 0 0 0 1px rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.05); }
#slideexp3_AA7C85c .b_slidebar .slide.see_more { box-shadow: 0 0 0 0px rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.00);
-webkit-box-shadow: 0 0 0 0px rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.00); } #slideexp3_AA7C85c .b_slidebar .slide.see_more
.carousel_seemore { border: 0px; }#slideexp3_AA7C85c .b_slidebar .slide.see_more:hover { box-shadow: 0 0
0 0px rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.00); -webkit-box-shadow: 0 0 0 0px rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.00); }Images of Solar Power And
SunlightSolar Hot WaterSun Solar PanelsAbout Solar PanelsSolar Panel System DesignSolar KitsSolar PV
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With Our Solar PV Panel Installations .. credible Role of Sunlight: What You Need to Know - Weather

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Learn how solar power works, from the photovoltaic effect to AC conversion, with clear explanations of clean, renewable solar energy and panel technology.

Solar energy is created by nuclear fusion that takes place in the sun. It is necessary for life on Earth, and can be harvested for human uses such as electricity.

There are several ways to turn sunlight into usable energy, but almost all solar energy today comes from "solar photovoltaics (PV)." Solar PV relies on a natural property of "semiconductor" ...

Learn how solar panels turn sunlight into electricity for your home. Explore how solar works, how you can save with net metering, and what to expect with installation.

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