



Twenty years of solar power generation

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Title: Twenty years of solar power generation

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Overall, in 72% of the simulations done for robustness testing, solar makes up more than 50% of power generation in 2050. This suggests that solar dominance is not only possible but also...

From the earliest days of solar-powered satellites to modern rooftop arrays and utility-scale solar farms, this is the complete history of solar energy--and a look at its exciting potential in ...

This timeline features the key innovations that have advanced the solar industry in the United States. Learn more about these key events from 1955 to present.

We expect the combined share of generation from solar power and wind power to rise from about 18% in 2025 to about 21% in 2027. In our STEO forecast, utility-scale solar is the fastest ...

You Might Not Recognize Solar Panels in 20 YearsUse of Solar Power Will Expand DramaticallySolar Technology Will Be BetterSolar Will Be Cheaper Than EverChina Will Continue to Lead The World in Solar ProductionEconomies of scale and reductions in the material costs will lead to even further declines in the price of solar energy. In almost every area of the solar energy industry, costs continue to decline. In 2012, for instance, installation costs for fixed-tilt utility-scale systems were \$1.93 per watt. But last year, they cost less than \$0.90 per watt. ...See more on [sepco-solarlighting](#) .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_crs{margin:6px 0 16px}.b_top

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8px}.rel_ent_w.rel_ent_scr:not(.rel_ent_crs){height:50px;overflow:hidden}.rel_ent_c{white-space:nowrap;ov
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0;border-radius:20px;border:1px solid
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.rel_ent_c a.rel_ent{overflow:initial;display:flex}.slide a.rel_ent{margin:0;box-shadow:none}.b_sidebar
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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
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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
.iacf_crs.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
f:stretch;padding:0 var(--smtc-gap-between-content-xx-small);overflow:hidden}#b_content .iacfic.mmkiaacf
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0 0 0}#b_content .acfImgAns .salink acf-button-standard{display:inline-block;position:relative}#b_content
.acfImgAns .salink::before{border-bottom:1px solid
var(--smtc-stroke-ctrl-on-neutral-rest);width:100%;display:block;content:"";top:18px;position:relative}#b_con
tent .acfImgAns .rel_ent_w a.rel_ent{border:1px solid var(--acf-stroke-neutral-decorative)}#b_content
.acfImgAns .iaheader
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svg{color:var(--smtc-foreground-content-neutral-primary);forced-color-adjust:auto}#b_content
```

Twenty years of solar power generation

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.iacfic.mmkiaacf .iacf_plan .cico img{border-radius:var(--mai-smtc-corner-card-default)}#b_content
.iacfic.mmkiaacf{overflow:visible;padding:0}#b_content .iacfic.mmkiaacf
.iacf_crsl[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
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.iacf_crsl[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)
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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
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.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
.acfImgAns .rel_ent_w .cr>div:after{margin-inline-start:2px;top:0}#b_content .acfImgAns .rel_ent_w
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.slide{height:38px;margin-left:0;margin-inline-end:var(--smtc-gap-between-content-x-small)}#b_content
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a.rel_ent:hover{background:var(--smtc-background-card-on-primary-default-hover)}#b_content .acfImgAns
.rel_ent_w a.rel_ent:active{background:var(--smtc-background-card-on-primary-default-pressed)}#b_content
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var(--smtc-gap-between-content-xx-small)}#b_content .acfImgAns .rel_ent_w
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.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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.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
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```

Twenty years of solar power generation

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.iacfca{height:200px}{dir="rtl"} .iacfca .iacf_pag{transform:translate(50%,0)}.iacfm.iacfca
.iacf_crsl[data-wptds-carousel]
[data-wptds-carousel-control]{background:var(--bing-smtc-background-ctrl-neutral-rest);border:0;height:56px
;width:16px;transition:width .3s;background-color:var(--smtc-foreground-ctrl-neutral-primary-hover)}.iacfm.iacfca .iacf_crsl[data-wptds-carousel]
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[data-wptds-carousel-control]{background:var(--mai-smtc-background-ctrl-on-image-rest);color:var(--mai-sm
tc-foreground-ctrl-on-image-rest)}.iacfm.iacfca.iacf_fb .iacf_crsl[data-wptds-carousel]
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[data-wptds-carousel-list]{width:fit-content}.iacfca .iacf_colg_crsl .iacfmit{position:absolute}.iacfca
.iacf_colg_crsl
.cico{border-radius:0}.iacfca:not(.iacfh):has(>.iacf_colg_crsl){height:100%;width:100%;padding:0;overflow:
hidden;border-radius:inherit}.iacfca:not(.iacfh):has(>.iacf_colg_crsl)
.iacfmit{border-radius:0}.iacfca:not(.iacfh):has(>.iacf_colg_crsl) [data-wptds-carousel][data-default]
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var(--mai-smtc-padding-card-default) - (var(--wptds-carousel-control-size)/2)))
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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
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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]
[data-default]{--wptds-carousel-control-bg-color:#fff;--wptds-carousel-control-border-color:#ddd;--wptds-car
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[data-wptds-carousel-controls]>*[flex-grow:0;flex-shrink:0][data-wptds-carousel][data-default]
[data-wptds-carousel-control]{cursor:pointer;inline-size:var(--wptds-carousel-control-size);aspect-ratio:1;display:grid;place-content:center;border-radius:50%;background-color:var(--wptds-carousel-control-bg-color);border:.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-wptds-carousel][data-default]
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[data-wptds-carousel-control]: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-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-default]
[data-wptds-carousel-control][data-direction="end"]>svg{transform:scaleX(-1)}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default]
[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-wptds-carousel-announce][data-variant="Normal"],[data-wptds-carousel-announce][data-variant="FullWidth"]{--wptds-carousel-control-opacity:0}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default]
[data-wptds-carousel-announce][data-variant="Normal"]:has([data-wptds-carousel-scroll-container]:focus-visible),[data-wptds-carousel-announce][data-variant="Normal"]:has([data-wptds-carousel-control]:focus-visible),[data-wptds-carousel-announce][data-variant="FullWidth"]:has([data-wptds-carousel-scroll-container]:focus-visible),[data-wptds-carousel-announce][data-variant="FullWidth"]:h
```

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as([data-wptds-carousel-control]:focus-visible){--wptds-carousel-control-opacity:1}[data-wptds-carousel][data-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-default][data-variant="Normal"][data-snap]
[data-wptds-carousel-item]:first-of-type{scroll-snap-align:start}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default][data-variant="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 mandatory}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default][data-variant="FullWidth"]
[data-wptds-carousel-item]{inline-size:100%;scroll-snap-align:center;scroll-snap-stop:always}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default][data-variant="FullWidth"]
[data-wptds-carousel-item]:first-of-type{scroll-snap-align:start}[data-wptds-carousel][data-default][data-variant="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%)}[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_drk
[data-wptds-carousel-control]:active,.b_drk
[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%!important;height:100%!important;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}acf-button-standard{display:block;inline-size:fit-content;max-
inline-size:100%}acf-button-standard,acf-button-standard::before,acf-button-standard
d * ,acf-button-standard *::before,acf-button-standard
*::after{box-sizing:border-box;margin:0;padding:0}acf-button-standard[hidden],acf-button-standard
*[hidden]{display:none}acf-button-standard[data-visually-hidden],acf-button-standard
*[data-visually-hidden]{block-size:1px;inline-size:1px;margin:unset;padding:unset;border:0;clip:rect(0 0 0
0);clip-path:inset(50%);overflow:clip;position:absolute;white-space:nowrap}.acf-button-standard__btn,.acf-bu
tton-standard__link{font:var(--font);color:var(--color)!important;background-color:var(--background-color);b
order:1px solid
var(--border-color);display:grid;grid-auto-flow:column;align-items:center;gap:var(--smtc-gap-inside-ctrl-to-se
condary-icon);cursor:pointer;text-decoration:none!important}.acf-button-standard__btn>*,.acf-button-standar
d__link> * {min-inline-size:0;max-inline-size:100%}.acf-button-standard__btn[aria-disabled="true"],.acf-butto
n-standard__link[aria-disabled="true"]{opacity:.3;cursor:not-allowed}.acf-button-standard__btn:focus-visible,
.acf-button-standard__link:focus-visible{outline-width:2px;outline-style:solid;outline-color:var(--smtc-ctrl-foc
us-outer-stroke);outline-offset:2px}.acf-button-standard__label{white-space:nowrap;overflow:clip;text-overfl
ow:ellipsis;max-block-size:calc(1*1lh)}acf-button-standard[data-shape="Pill"]
.acf-button-standard__btn,acf-button-standard[data-shape="Pill"]
.acf-button-standard__link{border-radius:var(--smtc-corner-circular)}acf-button-standard[data-size="Default"
] .acf-button-standard__btn,acf-button-standard[data-size="Default"]
.acf-button-standard__link{padding-block-start:var(--smtc-padding-ctrl-text-top);padding-block-end:var(--smt
c-padding-ctrl-text-bottom);padding-inline:var(--smtc-padding-ctrl-horizontal-default)}acf-button-standard[da
ta-style="Secondary"]{--color:var(--bing-smtc-foreground-ctrl-neutral-primary-alt-rest);--background-color:va
r(--bing-smtc-background-ctrl-neutral-rest);--border-color:transparent}acf-button-standard[data-style="Second
ary"] .acf-button-standard__btn:hover:not([aria-disabled="true"]),acf-button-standard[data-style="Secondary"]
.acf-button-standard__link:hover:not([aria-disabled="true"]){--color:var(--smtc-foreground-ctrl-neutral-primar
y-hover);--background-color:var(--smtc-background-ctrl-neutral-hover);--border-color:transparent}acf-button-
standard[data-style="Secondary"]
.acf-button-standard__btn:active:not([aria-disabled="true"]),acf-button-standard[data-style="Secondary"]
.acf-button-standard__link:active:not([aria-disabled="true"]){--color:var(--smtc-foreground-ctrl-neutral-primar
y-pressed);--background-color:var(--smtc-background-ctrl-neutral-pressed);--border-color:transparent}acf-bu
tton-standard[data-weight="Strong"][data-size="Small"],acf-button-standard[data-weight="Strong"][data-size
="Default"]{--font:var(--bing-smtc-text-global-caption-1-strong)}acf-button-standard[data-weight="Strong"][d

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Twenty years of solar power generation

ata-size="Large"]{--font:var(--bing-smtc-text-global-body3-strong)}acf-icon{display:block;inline-size:fit-content;max-inline-size:100%;pointer-events:none}acf-icon,acf-icon::before,acf-icon::after,acf-icon * ,acf-icon *::before,acf-icon *::after{box-sizing:border-box;margin:0;padding:0}acf-icon[hidden],acf-icon *[hidden]{display:none}acf-icon[data-visually-hidden],acf-icon *[data-visually-hidden]{block-size:1px;inline-size:1px;margin:unset;padding:unset;border:0;clip:rect(0 0 0 0);clip-path:inset(50%);overflow:clip;position:absolute;white-space:nowrap}.acf-icon__def{display:none}.acf-icon__icon{display:block;inline-size:auto;color:inherit}[dir="rtl"] .acf-icon__icon{transform:scaleX(-1)}@media(forced-colors:active){acf-icon{color:ButtonText!important}}.acf-icon[data-size="M"] .acf-icon__icon{block-size:16px}#slideexp2_5ABEF2 .slide { margin-right: 8px; }#slideexp2_5ABEF2c .b_slidebar .slide { border-radius: 6px; }#slideexp2_5ABEF2 .slide:last-child { margin-right: 1px; }#slideexp2_5ABEF2c { margin: -4px; } #slideexp2_5ABEF2c .b_viewport { padding: 4px 1px 4px 1px; margin: 0 3px; } #slideexp2_5ABEF2c .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); } #slideexp2_5ABEF2c .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); } #slideexp2_5ABEF2c .b_slidebar .slide.see_more .carousel_seemore { border: 0px; }#slideexp2_5ABEF2c .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 Twenty Years of Solar Power GenerationTimeline Of Solar PowerSolar Power Generation ChartSolar Power History TimelineTimeline Of Solar EnergySolar Energy TimelineSolar Development TimelineSolar Energy Timeline HistorySolar Energy HistoryHistory Of Solar Energy TimelineThe History of Solar Energy: The Big Picture | Impactful NinjaTimeline Of Solar PanelsA Decade of Growth in Solar and Wind Power: Trends Across the U.S ...A Decade of Growth in Solar and Wind Power: Trends Across the U.S ...A Brief History of Solar Energy - EcoWatchEIA predicts solar electricity generation to be 20% by 2050 - Oklahoma ...The History of Solar Energy: The Big Picture | Impactful Ninja20+ Stunning Solar Energy Statistics [2023]: Electricity, Popularity ...A Decade of Growth in Solar and Wind Power: Trends Across the U.S ...35 Latest Solar Power Statistics, Charts & Data [2026]See all.sb_doct_txt{color:#4007a2;font-size:11px;line-height:21px;margin-right:3px;vertical-align:super}.b_dark .sb_doct_txt{color:#82c7ff}nrel.gov[PDF]Global Progress Toward Renewable Electricity: Tracking the Role ...Graphs of deployed PV capacity have seen their axes shift from kW to MW to GW in less than 20 years, and the milestone of 1 TW of installed global capacity is likely to be reached in the next two years.

As the solar energy landscape keeps evolving, let's take a look at how solar energy could be used 20 years from now and compare technologies new and old.

Graphs of deployed PV capacity have seen their axes shift from kW to MW to GW in less than 20 years, and the milestone of 1 TW of installed global capacity is likely to be reached in the next two years.

Between 2000 and 2022, solar capacity increased by an average of 37% per year, doubling every 2.2 years. Over the same time period, the capacity factor increased from 10% to 14%.

The report found that solar farms had been the world's fastest-growing source of energy for the last 20 consecutive years.



Twenty years of solar power generation

In 2024, net solar power generation in the United States reached its highest point yet at 218.5 terawatt hours of solar thermal and photovoltaic (PV) power.

The rapid growth of solar power in recent years has been one of the most remarkable stories of global energy. In 2022, the world added more new solar capacity than all other energy ...

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