

Harvest Energy With Solar Power Panels

As solar panel technology advances, the image people have of solar technology will change as well. The old images of large, boxy solar panels sitting on rooftop hoping to catch some part of the sun's rays are slowly fading as people see the newer, smaller and smarter solar power panel advances emerge.

Of course as with anything involving the sun, there will be heat. Using solar power panels, this heat can be used to warm the water and the air in the ventilation systems using solar power panels. What people commonly call a solar panel is more properly called a PV or Photovoltaic panel. Solar cells line the panel and are made with silicon, or some other semi-conductive material, that produces electricity when the sun shines on it. After being collected in the cells, the electricity can flow directly to your home.

Originally, the solar panel or PV panels were restricted to big square or rectangular-shaped enclosures. Recently, the manufacturing process for solar cells has developed tremendously, opening new doors to significant changes in the way solar power panels can be integrated into your business or home. As solar cells become as a more practical alternative to energy problems, solar panels have become easier to install and can be made a part of roofing material or even parts of windows. Building Integrated Photovoltaics, or BIPV, is the emerging technology of integrating solar cells into all kinds of building materials, so that a building can be green from the ground up.

Solar power panels can be incorporated into skylights, windows, exterior walls, awnings and almost anywhere that has a direct line-of-sight path to the sun. As new advances in solar power panel technology come on to the market, solar power cells can be made a part of any roof for both collecting energy and providing the traditional insulation and protection one can get from traditional roofing materials.

Many types of solar power panel assemblies can be installed on buildings directly. Ground mounted or pole mounted fixtures are the most widely used assemblies in this category. Being able to use the different methods of maximizing the sun's rays makes it easier to get the most out of these solar panels and easier to design a the layout. Indirect sun exposure will still allow solar panels to generate power, but direct sun exposure is the most efficient way to create the greatest amount of solar power.

Ground mounted structures which are mounted typically to metal frames anchored into the ground with traditional construction methods, concrete footers etc. These frames can be built with motorized mounts for the solar power panels which would allow them to track or follow the sun throughout the day.

Pole-mounted structures, mounted to either the side or top of a metal pole, can also be built to have the solar panels move with or track the path of the sun to get the optimum amount of solar exposure during the course of the day.

About the Author

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