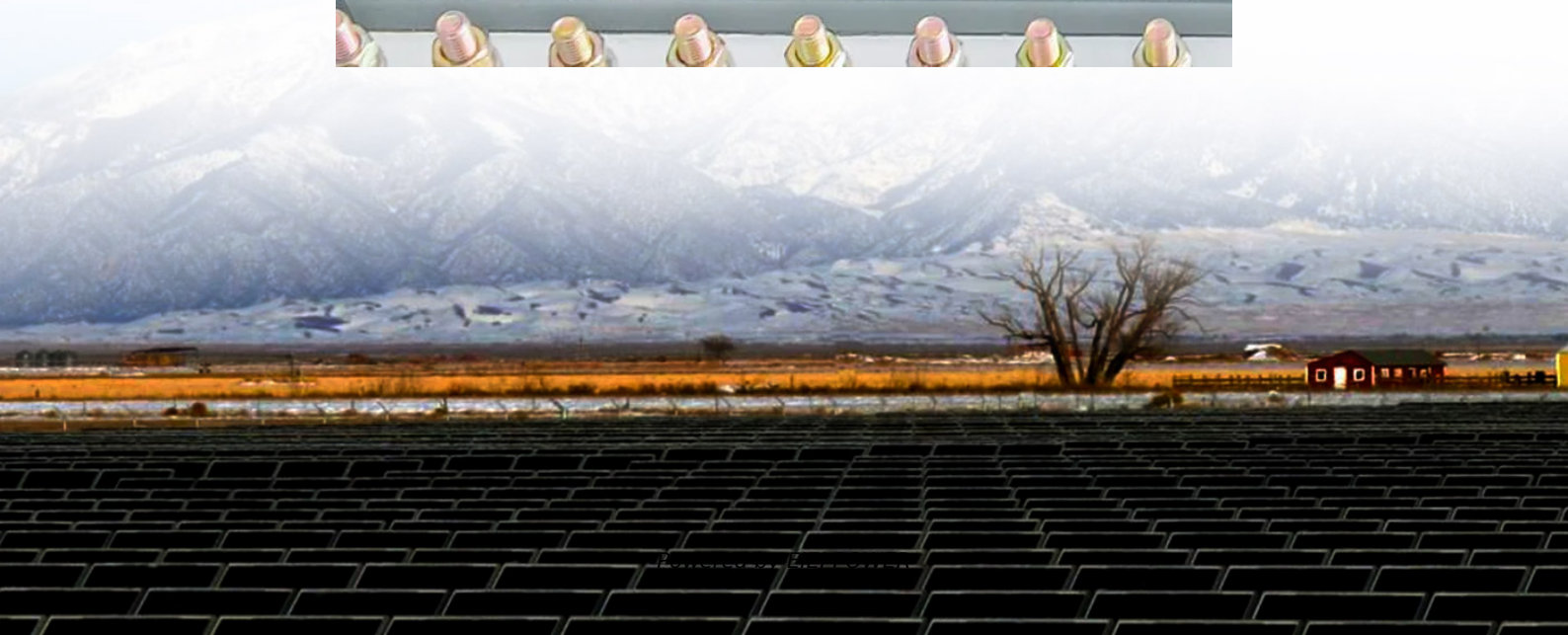


# Do solar panels require electricity





## Overview

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How do solar photovoltaic cells work?

Solar photovoltaic cells are grouped in panels, and panels can be grouped into arrays of different sizes to power water pumps, power individual homes, or provide utility-scale electricity generation. Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory (copyrighted).

How does solar energy work?

The amount of sunlight that strikes the earth's surface in an hour and a half is enough to handle the entire world's energy consumption for a full year. Solar technologies convert sunlight into electrical energy either through photovoltaic (PV) panels or through mirrors that concentrate solar radiation.

What are the different types of solar energy?

Learn about the basics of solar radiation. There are two main types of solar energy technologies—photovoltaics (PV) and concentrating solar-thermal power (CSP). You're likely most familiar with PV, which is utilized in solar panels. When the sun shines onto a solar panel, energy from the sunlight is absorbed by the PV cells in the panel.

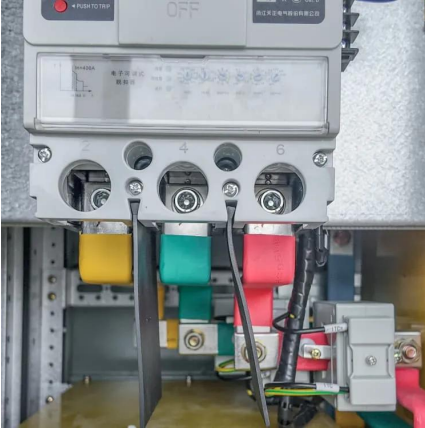
Why is solar energy important?

Solar energy can help to reduce the cost of electricity, contribute to a resilient electrical grid, create jobs and spur economic growth, generate back-up power for nighttime and outages when paired with storage, and operate at similar efficiency on both small and large scales.



## Do solar panels require electricity

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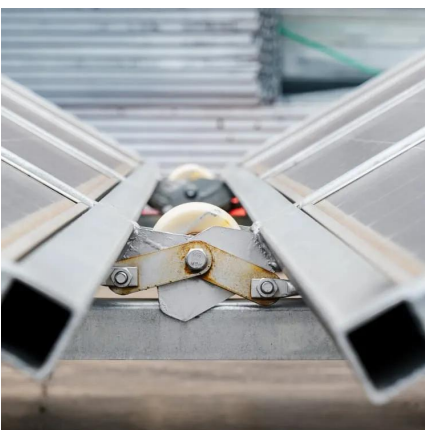
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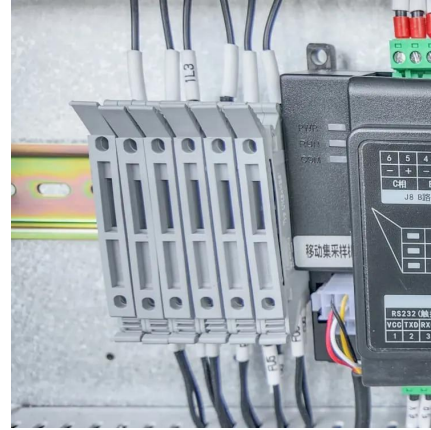


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### Photovoltaics and electricity

Photovoltaic Cells Convert Sunlight Into Electricity  
 The Flow of Electricity in A Solar Cell  
 PV Cells, Panels, and Arrays  
 PV System Efficiency  
 PV System Applications  
 History of PV Systems  
 The PV cell is the basic building block of a PV system. Individual cells can vary from 0.5 inches to about 4.0 inches across. However, one PV cell can only produce 1 or 2 Watts, which is only enough electricity for small uses, such as powering calculators or wristwatches. PV cells are electrically connected in a packaged, weather-tight PV panel (so See more on eia.gov  
 Published: Oct 1, 2024



## Videos of Do Solar Panels Require Electricity?

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## Do solar panels need electricity to work

Do solar panels need electricity to work? It depends upon the type of solar inverter use in solar power plant.



### How Does Solar Work?

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### How Does Solar Work?



2 days ago · Learn the basics of solar energy technology including solar radiation, photovoltaics (PV), concentrating solar-thermal power (CSP), grid integration, and soft costs.

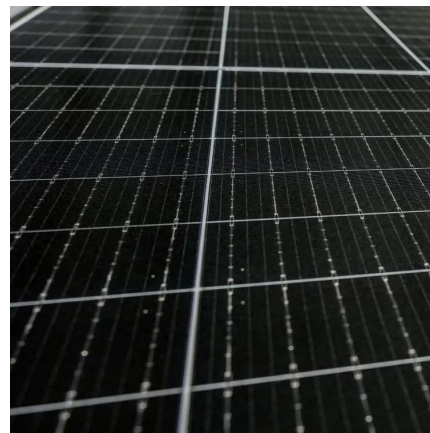


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