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How Does Solar Power Work?

By Peter Lenkefi

The basics of solar power.

Solar power is probably the cleanest, most viable form of renewable energy available and it can be used in several forms to help power your house. Many gardens now use solar lights or solar garden water features. The availability and wide use of solar power in gardens shows exactly how versatile it is as a source of energy. The technology and the systems are becoming smaller, more compact and better looking than when they were first created and used. Early examples of solar power systems can be seen in California where, in the 1980s, enough solar power panels were installed to power over 10 million homes.

How do photovoltaic tiles work?

Simply put photovoltaic tiles and other forms of solar energy work by converting some of the energy in sunlight into a clean form of electricity that can be used in our houses. The PV cells consist of a positive and a negative slice of silicon placed under a thin slice of glass. As the photons of the sunlight beat down onto the PV cell they knock the electrons off the silicon. The negatively charged free electrons are attracted to the silicon but are trapped by the magnetic field that is formed from the opposing fields. Small wires on the silicon catch these electrons and when connected in a circuit an electric current is formed.

This reaction gives Direct Current electricity though, and it must be passed through an inverter to be converted into an Alternating Current used in our homes to power any electrical items. Some of the power is lost in this part of the process as the inverter is only around 95% efficient but this is a much greater efficiency than was once available.

The nature of the PV cell means there is little or no maintenance required and there are no moving parts; this means that a typical PV cell can last up to 40 years with no work besides an annual clean.

How can I use them to power my house?

How Does Solar Power Work?

There are several ways to use solar power around the house and not just for powering. You can use it to heat your hot water, heat your pool or even your central heating or if you have plenty of roof space and a reasonable amount of sun you can get a grid tie system; a grid tie system means that not only can you power your entire house but during those times when you create an excess of electricity you can sell it back to the grid. An efficiently solar powered home will be able to reasonably create between 75 and 100% of their own power and because of the grid tie system this means you may not have to pay for electricity ever again.

For more more information about solar power please visit

<http://www.solar-power-energy.info>

Solar Powered Homes Are Becoming More Popular

By Dave Moore

In this day and age of ever growing efficiency, everyday folks are looking to capitalize on today's current technology to save money in all areas of their budget. And since energy prices are getting steeper, and concerns of man-made pollution are on the rise, the choice to retrofit an existing home into a solar powered home is becoming more enticing to the average consumer.

Solar Power use for the everyday homeowner used to be limited to just heating the backyard swimming pool. But these days solar power technology has grown by leaps and bounds. You can now have your entire home be powered by solar energy, including (but not limited to) garden and walkway lights, water heater, interior lighting, attic fans, central air conditioner, and, of course, your swimming pool.

Although the solar powered car is becoming the most popular use for this alternative energy source, the steps to create a solar powered home are not to hard (when using a professional service) and well worth the investment. There are a number of solar power panels and solar power kits available on the market, but if you are interested in solar power to power any part of your house, your best bet is to look up "solar power" in your local phone book.

Dave Moore is the operator of

<http://www.solar-powered-everything.com>

which is a website dedicated

to informing the general public about the uses of Solar Power.

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