



Solar energy for electricity United States

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According to a study that the U.S. Department of Energy conducted in 2021, the U.S. is capable of generating 40% of its energy supply from solar power by 2035.

Millions of Americans are deciding to power their homes with solar energy--especially as costs have decreased--but an investment in solar energy generates more than just clean energy. It can support household savings, energy independence, economic opportunities, grid reliability, resilience, security and affordability, and a safer planet.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) reported that the United States installed 15.6 GW ac of solar capacity in in the first quarter (Q1)/second quarter (Q2) of 2024 (the Solar Energy Industries Association reported 21.4 GW dc)--a 55% increase from the record achieved in Q1/Q2 2023.

Humans have been using solar energy for centuries and first produced solar-powered electricity in the United States in 1954. Currently, solar energy can generate electricity in two ways: solar photovoltaics (PV) and solar thermal. Solar PV cells, such as rooftop solar panels, directly convert sunlight into electricity.

In 2023, net solar power generation in the United States reached its highest point yet at 164.5 terawatt hours of solar thermal and photovoltaic (PV) power. Skip to main content Statista...

According to Global Energy Monitor's Global Solar Power Tracker, which tracks utility scale solar projects of 20MW or larger, the United States is second in the world for operating solar capacity (11.6%) and prospective capacity (9.8%). China ranks first ...

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U.S. Residential PV Penetration o At the end of 2023, SEIA estimates there were nearly 5 million residential PV systems in the United States. - 3.3% of households own or lease a PV system (or 5.3% of households living in single-family detached structures).

In 2023, utility-scale solar power generated 164.5 terawatt-hours (TWh), or 3.9% of electricity in the United States. Total solar generation that year, including estimated small-scale photovoltaic generation, was 238 TWh.

Electricity generation. In 2023, net generation of electricity from utility-scale generators in the United States



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was about 4,178 billion kilowatthours (kWh) (or about 4.18 trillion kWh). EIA estimates that an additional 73.62 billion kWh (or about 0.07 trillion kWh) were generated with small-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) systems.

In 2023, the U.S. generated over eight times more electricity from solar energy than in 2014 -- an increase of more than 209,197 GWh or 723%.

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