

# CAN SOLAR ENERGY BENEFIT YOU AND YOUR LIFESTYLE?

Solar energy is heavily promoted for its ability to produce a clean form of energy production. It does not pollute the environment and therefor considered a very green technology.

Currently there are two methods of harnessing solar energy; thermal conversion and photovoltaic conversion. Another way to generate electric power is using sunlight to create heat. This method is known as solar thermal conversion. Photovoltaic conversion uses sheets of a specialized material that can create electricity directly from the sun.

As you would expect, sunlight is required to use solar thermal conversion to generate electricity. Solar energy is a type of energy This method utilizes reflecting surfaces and mirrors to amplify the amount of heat that can be generated. (thermal).

If you have ever starting a magnifying glass fire, than you were using solar energy. You are able to create a very small space of very intense heat using a magnifying glass. Actual solar cells used to store heat use this method to superheat liquids that produce steam. Steam is created, which in turn moves a turbine that converts the energy into electricity.

Photovoltaic Conversion is a big scientific term for light that is converted into energy.

Photovoltaic cells usually consist of panels, which contain two layers of different materials. When the two layers are touched by light, one layer gets a positive charge, while the second layer gets a negative charge.

Very much like a regular battery, which has a positive end and a negative end, when a wire connects the two ends, they produce an electric current. When the two layers of material in a solar cell are exposed to light, an electric current is created.

The efficiency of a single solar cell is determined by its exposure to direct sunlight. Both time and intensity of sunlight will play a factor.

Solar cells are used to generate electricity for a variety of things, such as cell phones and entire communities. Solar power has the advantage of portability while traveling or camping, not to mention it also very environmentally friendly.

As written earlier, if you have ever used a hand held or lighted magnifying glass to light a fire to spark a flame, you have used solar energy.

Source : [http://solarpowerissues.blogspot.in/2009/11/can-solar-energy-benefit-you-and-your\\_09.html](http://solarpowerissues.blogspot.in/2009/11/can-solar-energy-benefit-you-and-your_09.html)