



# Solar energy is renewable resource

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As climate change rears its head, the world is in desperate need of clean and renewable energy sources. Photovoltaic (PV) solar is now the fastest growing energy source, which is good news for people that like cheap, clean, and renewable energy.

Solar energy is generated by capturing the sun's energy and turning it into electricity for your home or business. The process can be broken down into five basic steps.

Obviously, solar energy requires sunshine and only works during the day. Many home solar systems are grid-connected and use net metering to earn credit for excess electricity. Others use battery storage to bank energy for nights and power outages.

Yes, solar energy is a renewable energy source. Renewable energy sources are those that can be replenished naturally and are not depleted when used. They include:

In fact, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) found that "solar energy is the most abundant energy resource on earth -- 173,000 terawatts of solar energy strikes the Earth continuously. That's more than 10,000 times the world's total energy use."

In contrast, nonrenewable energy sources are finite, meaning they can be depleted if we continue to use them at the current rate. These include fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas, which are formed over millions of years from the remains of plants and animals.

Solar is sometimes referred to as the primary renewable energy source because it is the most abundant, cost effective, and widely available source of renewable energy on the planet.

In addition to being renewable and widely available, solar energy is also a clean and environmentally-friendly source of energy. It does not produce any emissions when generating electricity, and the emission generated to manufacture a solar panel are typically offset within 2-3 years.

It's no surprise, then, that solar capacity is growing faster than any other energy source - renewable or not. Utility-scale solar accounted for 35% of all energy generation installed from January to September 2022, followed by wind and natural gas.

From October 2023-September 2025, there are nearly 72 GW of "high probability additions" of solar lined up, which would make up 65% of all new generation capacity.

Solar energy is both a renewable and sustainable energy source because it meets the needs of the present



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without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Primarily, using renewable solar energy can benefit the environment by reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, which contribute to climate change. By using solar energy, we can reduce the amount of planet-warming gasses in the atmosphere and help to preserve the planet for future generations.

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