

Title: Where solar power was previously used

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What is the history of solar energy?

From the earliest days of solar-powered satellites to modern rooftop arrays and utility-scale solar farms, this is the complete history of solar energy--and a look at its exciting potential in the years to come. The story of solar energy begins in 1839 with the work of French physicist Edmond Becquerel.

What is solar energy used for?

Solar energy is commonly used for solar water heaters and house heating. The heat from solar ponds enables the production of chemicals, food, textiles, warm greenhouses, swimming pools, and livestock buildings. Cooking and providing a power source for electronic devices can also be achieved by using solar energy. How is solar energy collected?

Where did solar technology come from?

In the United States, the federal Solar Energy Research Institute (now the National Renewable Energy Laboratory) was created in 1977 to drive innovation in photovoltaics. Germany and Japan also emerged as early leaders in solar technology and manufacturing during this period.

When did solar energy become a viable alternative energy source?

Back on Earth, solar energy technology continued to advance gradually through the mid-20th century but remained uncompetitive with cheap, readily available fossil fuels. This began to change with the 1970s oil crisis, as skyrocketing oil prices and uncertainty in global energy markets highlighted the need for alternative energy sources.

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Solar technology isn't new. Its history spans from the 7th Century B.C. to today. We started out concentrating the sun's heat with glass and mirrors to light fires. Today, we have everything from ...

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Historically, the U.S. lagged behind other countries in embracing solar, but this is beginning to reverse. Additionally, solar is now cheaper than coal so it now makes more economic sense to switch to ...

In 2011, a report by the International Energy Agency found that solar energy technologies such as

photovoltaics, solar hot water, and concentrated solar power could provide a third of the world's ...

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In the following centuries, solar energy was used in various forms, from solar furnaces to sundials. However, it wasn't until the Industrial Revolution that we began to explore the potential of ...

There are two main types of solar energy technologies--photovoltaics (PV) and concentrating solar-thermal power (CSP). On this page you'll find resources to learn what solar ...

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