
Subject: How do solar panels work?

Posted by [Viking](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 03:06:48 GMT

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I was just think about it...

How do they turn light into electricity?

Anyone know?

PS:I tryed google

Subject: Re: How do solar panels work?

Posted by [rm5248](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 03:22:35 GMT

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There's a special element in the panels(silicone? I forget) that generates electricity when exposed to light.

Wiki Linky

Subject: Re: How do solar panels work?

Posted by [Viking](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 03:28:24 GMT

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that link goes to a star wars site?

Subject: Re: How do solar panels work?

Posted by [Kamuix](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 03:49:35 GMT

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Yea havent you ever watch starwars? Solar is what their all about

Subject: Re: How do solar panels work?

Posted by [xptek](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 04:06:39 GMT

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_panel

Subject: Re: How do solar panels work?

Posted by [terminator 101](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 07:21:34 GMT

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I sometimes wonder why aren't solar panels used to power air conditioning. I think that would be THE best use for it, in winter as well as in summer.

Subject: Re: How do solar panels work?

Posted by [Blazer](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 07:49:11 GMT

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<http://science.howstuffworks.com/solar-cell.htm>

websitePhotovoltaic (PV) cells are made of special materials called semiconductors such as silicon, which is currently the most commonly used. Basically, when light strikes the cell, a certain portion of it is absorbed within the semiconductor material. This means that the energy of the absorbed light is transferred to the semiconductor. The energy knocks electrons loose, allowing them to flow freely. PV cells also all have one or more electric fields that act to force electrons freed by light absorption to flow in a certain direction. This flow of electrons is a current, and by placing metal contacts on the top and bottom of the PV cell, we can draw that current off to use externally. For example, the current can power a calculator. This current, together with the cell's voltage (which is a result of its built-in electric field or fields), defines the power (or wattage) that the solar cell can produce.

Subject: Re: How do solar panels work?

Posted by [xtaro](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 08:20:35 GMT

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Terminator 101 wrote on Sat, 06 May 2006 02:21 I sometimes wonder why aren't solar panels used to power air conditioning. I think that would be THE best use for it, in winter as well as in summer.

Who needs air conditioning in the winter??

Subject: Re: How do solar panels work?

Posted by [rm5248](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 13:32:04 GMT

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idjit626 wrote on Fri, 05 May 2006 22:28 that link goes to a star wars site?

Whoops. I was tired when I put that there. =/

Subject: Re: How do solar panels work?
Posted by [mision08](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 19:10:15 GMT
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Texans

Subject: Re: How do solar panels work?
Posted by [mision08](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 19:11:21 GMT
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xtaro wrote on Sat, 06 May 2006 03:20 Terminator 101 wrote on Sat, 06 May 2006 02:21
sometimes wonder why aren't solar panels used to power air conditioning. I think that would be
THE best use for it, in winter as well as in summer.

Who needs air conditioning in the winter??

Texans
