

# How did we find solar energy





## Overview

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Though solar energy has found a dynamic and established role in today's clean energy economy, there's a long history behind photovoltaics (PV) that brought the concept of solar energy to fruition. With the way the cost of solar has plummeted in the past decade, it's easy to forget that going solar.

The history and evolution of solar energy is a fascinating journey that spans from ancient civilizations to the high-tech solar panels we see today. This journey is not just about technology, but also about human ingenuity and our constant strive to harness nature's immense power for our use. Solar.

Despite the sun being billions of years old, how humans have harnessed its energy as a renewable source is relatively new! The utilization of solar energy has come a long way. Let's start from the beginning and walk through all the vital points in time for the solar energy industry and beyond. This.

The discovery of the photovoltaic effect in 1839 laid the groundwork for today's solar panels, but it would take many decades of innovation to transform this novel concept into the high-efficiency energy source we know today. From the earliest days of solar-powered satellites to modern rooftop.

We started out concentrating the sun's heat with glass and mirrors to light fires. Today, we have everything from solar-powered buildings to solar-powered vehicles. Here you can learn more about the milestones in the historical development of solar technology, century by century, and year by year.



From ancient civilizations worshipping the sun gods to scientists determining how solar radiation works in modern times, this article will explore exactly how solar energy was discovered and why it's so important today. Our journey begins thousands of years ago with ancient cultures who relied. 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.

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.

How did humans use solar energy?

In the 7th century B.C., humans discovered that sunlight could be concentrated using a magnifying glass to create fire. This marked one of the earliest instances of humans manipulating solar energy for a specific purpose.

What is the true invention of solar technology?

Many argue that this event marks the true invention of PV technology because it was the first instance of solar technology that could actually power an electric device for several hours of a day. The first ever silicon solar cell could convert sunlight at four percent efficiency, less than a quarter of what modern cells are capable of.

How has solar energy technology changed the world?

Solar energy technology has come a long way from the days of inefficient, expensive solar cells. Modern solar panels leverage several key innovations to achieve record-breaking efficiency and cost-effectiveness: Monocrystalline silicon: Most of today's solar cells are made from thin wafers of crystalline silicon.

When did solar panels become possible?

Although solar panel production became feasible in the 1960s and 1970s.



Technology was still too expensive for most people at the time. To lower the price of solar energy, researchers kept working on new technologies. The first P-N junction cell was created after semiconductors gained popularity.



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