

Solar Power

Energy made from the sun is called solar power. Solar power is a renewable form of energy because there will always be sunlight. Solar energy can be changed to heat energy. In this form it can be used to heat homes and buildings as well as water for home use or swimming pools.

Solar energy can be changed into electricity through the use of solar cells. These cells are made into panels that collect the sunlight. They change the light directly into electricity. You may have a solar powered calculator. Your calculator gets power when the sunlight hits the small solar cells on the face of your calculator.

Solar power plants are also used to change solar energy into electrical energy. Solar thermal collectors gather the sun's heat. This is then used to heat water and produce steam. The steam is used to power a generator. This type of process works the same way as creating electricity from fossil fuels. The biggest disadvantage is that the amount of sunlight available is not always constant.



Project

Bake a treat using solar power!

Materials

- aluminum foil
- marshmallows
- chocolate bars
- graham crackers

Directions

1. Spread a piece of aluminum foil on a desk.
2. Build a s'more with the marshmallows, graham crackers, and chocolate.
 - a) Place one square of graham cracker on the foil.
 - b) Place a square of chocolate on the graham.
 - c) Put the marshmallow on the chocolate.
 - d) Cover the marshmallow with another square of graham cracker.
3. Wrap the foil around the treat and set it in a sunny window in your classroom until the chocolate and marshmallow get warm and gooey. (30–60 minutes, depending on the heat of the sun.)
4. Unwrap your sticky sweet treat and enjoy your sun-made snack!

