

Analysis of the current status of solar power generation technology

What is the future of solar energy?

The Future of Solar Energy considers only the two widely recognized classes of technologies for converting solar energy into electricity -- photovoltaics (PV) and concentrated solar power (CSP), sometimes called solar thermal) -- in their current and plausible future forms.

Are solar energy uptake rates underestimated?

Historical projections of energy generation have consistently underestimated uptake rates of solar energy^{16,17}. For example, only a year after the publication of the 2020 World Energy Outlook (WEO), the IEA's "Stated policies scenario" has been revised strongly in favour of solar energy.

How has solar PV technology changed in 2022?

It is seen that the global weighted-average LCOE of solar PV technology reduced by about 89 % from 0.445 USD/kWh in 2010 to 0.049 USD/kWh in 2022. It is noticeable that the LCOE of PV technology has dropped into the range of fossil fuel electricity costs since 2014.

Will solar PV be a major power source by 2050?

By 2050 solar PV would represent the second-largest power generation source, just behind wind power and lead the way for the transformation of the global electricity sector. Solar PV would generate a quarter (25%) of total electricity needs globally, becoming one of prominent generations source by 2050.

How has the solar PV industry evolved in recent years?

The evolution of the solar PV industry so far has been remarkable, with several milestones achieved in recent years in terms of installations (including off-grid), cost reductions and technological advancements, as well as establishment of key solar energy associations (Figure 5).

What is the global solar PV market like in 2022?

The solar PV market is dominated by crystalline silicon technology, for which the production process consists of four main steps: In 2022, global solar PV manufacturing capacity increased by over 70% to reach 450 GW for polysilicon and up to 640 GW for modules, with China accounting for more than 95% of new facilities throughout the supply chain.

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