

# Reasons for the sharp drop in photovoltaic inverter prices

Will solar panel prices drop 40% this year?

Tim Buckley, director of Climate Energy Finance, speaks to pv magazine about the current steep trajectory of solar module prices. He estimates that PV panels prices will end up dropping by 40% this year and predicts the closure of old technology and sub-scale solar manufacturing facilities, both in China and globally.

Are soft costs affecting solar installation costs?

As in previous years, soft costs remain a large and persistent portion of installation costs, for both solar and storage systems, and especially for commercial and residential systems. "A significant portion of the cost declines over the past decade can be attributed to an 85% cost decline in module price.

Why did the PV cost benchmark rise in 2023?

The inflation-adjusted cost benchmark rose in 2023 for utility-scale PV systems but fell for residential PV systems owing to recent trends in network upgrade costs, Inflation Reduction Act manufacturing tax incentives, and other cost drivers.

Are residential PV systems cheaper than last year?

Compared to last year's report, modeled market prices for installed residential PV systems were 15% lower this year.

Why are solar and battery storage prices falling?

The study focuses on solar and battery storage, but the researchers note that wind power, heat pumps, and other clean technologies are also seeing a sharp drop in prices, too. Technological advances are making solar and battery storage smarter and more efficient.

How has solar power changed over time?

Both are measured on logarithmic scales, and the trend follows a straight line. That means the fall in cost has been exponential. Costs have fallen by around 20% every time the global cumulative capacity doubles. Over four decades, solar power has transformed from one of the most expensive electricity sources to the cheapest in many countries.

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