



Interesting Things You Might Not Know About Solar Power

We live with the sun every day, and it has become such a natural part of our routine that we forget how necessary it is to humanity. Just like water and air, the sun is a critical source of life. Take for example the super-volcano in Yellowstone Park, America. If it erupts the ash will blot out the sun across the globe and well...it's not a pretty picture. The point is that all natural functions of the earth are completely solar powered, and without this solar power nothing can grow. To put this immense influence into perspective again, here are some interesting things you might not know about solar power.

- The first people to start utilizing sunlight in their homes were the Greeks and Romans. The design of their homes took into account the amount of light they could get through the windows, which served as a natural heater.
- It's estimated that about 174 Petawatts of solar radiation reaches the atmosphere of the earth. However, only 70% of it breaches the initial layer, while the rest is reflected back into space. The solar energy that reaches earth is absorbed by clouds, oceans, land mass, and of course living beings.
- The distance between the sun and the earth is approximately 149,597,870 kilometers, but it only takes 10

minutes for the sunlight to cross that distance.

- If we could capture one minute of all the energy the sun sends to the earth then we'll have enough energy to power the globe for a year. When breaking this down into numbers you are looking at about 173 terawatts (the world energy demand multiplied by 10 000) that's constantly hitting earth, making the sun the most abundant source of energy we have.
- The great Leonardo Da Vinci made a prediction back in 1447, which was that solar power would eventually become industrialized. By looking at the massive investments that are made into building solar farms and even airplanes, it's a prediction that is quickly materializing.
- Solar power doesn't create noise and it doesn't pollute the air.
- Spaceships and satellites orbiting the earth typically use solar energy
- Since 1977 the price of solar panels have dramatically decreased. In fact, they cost about 100 times less than they did back then and between 2008 and 2015, the price decreased by another 50%.
- Most of the new solar technology projects are focused towards perfecting the art of photosynthesis, which has led to the creation of artificial leaves. Instead of converting energy into sugar, the leaves generate electricity.
- Bell Laboratories was the first to create a silicon cell in 1954, which ultimately became the platform for everything that followed.
- In light of hosting the 2016 Olympics, Brazil constructed what is called the Solar City Tower. It stands at 100 meters and it generates enough energy to power all the Olympic events, including the Olympic Village.