

# Current Status of Solar Thermal Power Generation

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.

What is the contribution of solar energy to global electricity production?

While the contribution of solar energy to global electricity production remains generally low at 3.6%, it has firmly established itself among other renewable energy technologies, comprising nearly 31% of the total installed renewable energy capacity in 2022 (IRENA, 2023).

How many solar modules were imported in 2023?

U.S. PV Imports According to U.S. Census data, 55.6 GW dc of modules and 3.7 GW dc of cells were imported in 2023, an increase of 87% y/y and 46% y/y, respectively. In Q1 2024, PV module imports held relatively steady for the third straight quarter at 15.2 GW dc.

What percentage of global electricity production is renewable?

In 2016, as depicted in Fig. 1, renewables contributed to about 30% of the global installed capacity, providing nearly a quarter of global electricity production. The solar power (PV+CSP) accounted for nearly 8% of the renewable electricity production.

What are the technological and economic problems faced by solar power plants?

Several technological and economic problems must be overcome by concentrated solar power plants, thermofluids and heat transfer fluids, and thermal energy storage systems. Economic problems include high capital costs, pricing unpredictability, finance, lack of scale, material prices, availability, and operational expenses.

What are the economic problems of solar energy?

Economic problems include high capital costs, pricing unpredictability, finance, lack of scale, material prices, availability, and operational expenses. Technological obstacles include the variability of solar resources, integration with the grid, corrosion, thermal stability, and system complexity.

The Global Solar Power Tracker is a worldwide dataset of utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) and solar thermal facilities. It covers all operating solar farm phases with capacities of 1 megawatt (MW) or more and all announced, pre ...

Thermal-power cycles operating with supercritical carbon dioxide (sCO<sub>2</sub>) could have a significant role in future power generation systems with applications including fossil ...

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oThe current electricity generation in Nigeria is relatively poor, and below policy targets. ... Ogunmodimu & Okoroigwe [63] has indicated that solar thermal electric power plant ...

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