



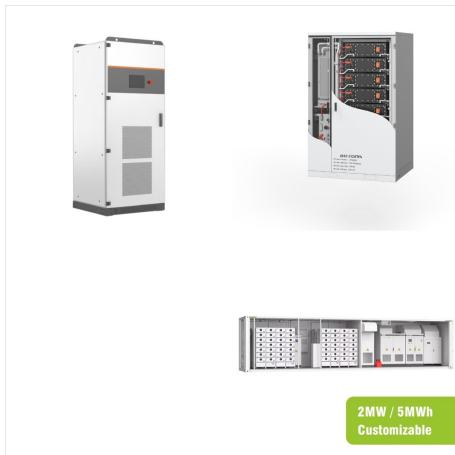
Solar energy is energy from the sun that we capture with various technologies, including solar panels. There are two main types of solar energy: photovoltaic (solar panels) and thermal. The "photovoltaic effect" is the mechanism by which solar panels harness the sun's energy to generate electricity.



The main uses of solar energy are solar photovoltaics (PV) for electricity, solar heating and cooling (SHC) and concentrated solar power (CSP). People primarily use SHC systems for heating or cooling water and spaces (like your home).



Uses. Solar energy has long been used directly as a source of thermal energy. Beginning in the 20th century, technological advances have increased the number of uses and applications of the Sun's thermal energy and opened the doors for the generation of solar power.



Solar energy is a form of renewable energy, in which sunlight is turned into electricity, heat, or other forms of energy we can use. It is a "carbon-free" energy source that, once built, produces none of the greenhouse gas emissions that are driving climate change.



What is solar energy used for? 1. Solar-powered transportation: A new use of photovoltaic energy 2. Wearable solar tech: A personal way to use solar power 3. Solar lighting: A popular example of solar energy 4. Portable solar: Using solar on the go 5.



Solar energy is a renewable resource, and many technologies can harvest it directly for use in homes, businesses, schools, and hospitals. Some solar energy technologies include photovoltaic cells and panels, concentrated solar energy, and solar architecture.