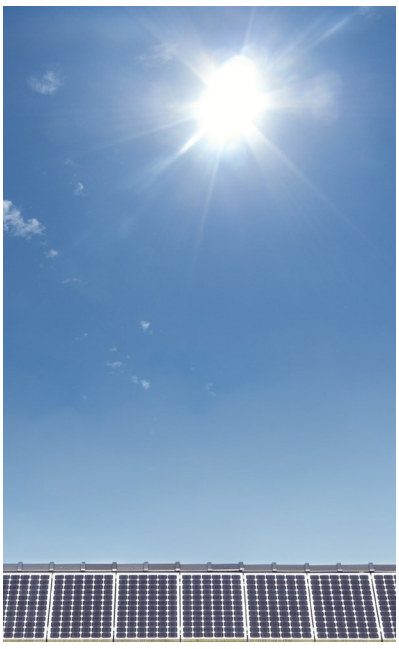
Fact Sheet

SOLAR POWER FUNDAMENTALS

- Every hour the sun beams onto Earth more than enough energy to satisfy global energy needs **for an entire year**.
- The cost of solar panels has fallen approximately 100 times over since 1977, and solar panels today are about **half the price** they were in 2008.
- One year's worth of solar energy **on one acre of land** in West Texas equals the energy of **800 barrels of oil.** Texas has more solar energy potential than any other U.S. state.
- Solar generating capacity **increased by about 7,000 MW,** or about eighteen-fold, from 2001 through 2013 at larger power plants with capacities of at least 1 MW.
- In 2014 there was an addition of over **3,000 MW of solar generating capacity,** and total solar generating capacity at larger solar power plants reached about 10,000 MW.
- Distributed solar generating capacity (capacity installed on household or commercial rooftops) was 8**,500 MW as of the end of 2014**
- Overall, solar represented **32 percent of all new electric** generating capacity in the U.S.in 2014.
- Overall solar capacity in the United States surged 30 percent in 2014 to more than 20 gigawatts and will **more than double by the end of 2016,** according to the Washington-based Solar Energy Industries Association. That's enough to power 7.6 million U.S. homes, up from 360,000 in 2009.
- The European Photovoltaic Industry Association (EPIA) has conducted a study, "SET for 2020", which shows that assuming basic improvements to regulatory conditions, PV solar power could satisfy as **much as 12 percent of EU electricity** demand by 2020.
- Solar deployment was up 40 percent in 2014 and employment in the solar industry in the United States was up 22 percent year-over-year to **174,000 total solar workers**,

One year's worth of solar energy on one acre of land in West Texas equals the energy of 800 barrels of oil. Texas has more solar energy potential than any other U.S. state.



Updated July 2015