

Something new under the sun



To meet the changing needs of the global energy industry, three of the U.S. Department of Energy's solar technology programs are now under one umbrella: the **Office of Solar Energy Technologies**.

The Office of Solar Energy Technologies—or, the Solar Office—will facilitate the widespread use of solar energy within the United States—first, by sponsoring research and development that improves the performance and reduces the cost of solar technologies; and second, by promoting their use through educational information and technical assistance.

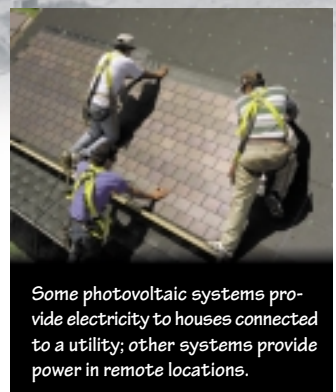
The solar programs of photovoltaics, concentrating solar power, and solar buildings host a tremendous range of applications, including:

- Large-scale power production
- On-site electricity generation
- Domestic water heating
- Ventilation air preheating
- Power for lighting, water pumping, and cooling.

Integrating the Solar Office will focus our expertise and resources, resulting in a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts.

Better Stakeholder Support

The Solar Office provides “one-stop shopping” for people who have a stake in the solar industry. You may be a manufacturer, installer, or policy maker who needs information on recent technology advances. Or, you may be eager to participate in the President’s Million Solar Roofs Initiative. Whatever your interest in solar energy, you only need one number ... 202-586-SUNS.



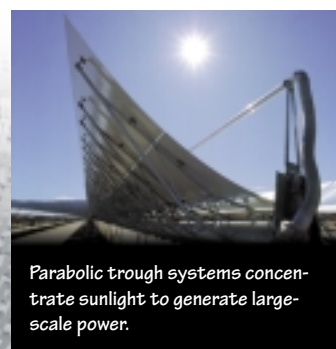
Some photovoltaic systems provide electricity to houses connected to a utility; other systems provide power in remote locations.

Warren Gretz, NREL/PIX06282



Photovoltaic technologies directly convert the sun into electricity for small- to large-scale power needs.

University of South Florida/PIX00021



Parabolic trough systems concentrate sunlight to generate large-scale power.

Luz International/PIX00034

Better Organization

Pulling together three solar programs under the one Solar Office umbrella produces significant organizational benefits—we can build on the strengths of each program, combine our administrative efforts, and encourage cooperation that bolsters the impact of each technology. This cohesive approach also strengthens our efforts to educate policy makers, industry, and the public on a rich spectrum of solar energy technologies.

Better R&D

We continue to support the research of world-class scientists and engineers in industry, universities, and our national laboratories—research that has already dramatically improved solar energy technologies since the 1970s. More than ever, we are fully supporting R&D efforts that integrate technologies to create exciting new applications—for example, concentrating photovoltaic systems, advanced polymeric materials, and thermal/PV hybrid collectors. And we will be better able to identify and support applications that use multiple solar energy technologies.

The Department of Energy's Solar Office is looking ahead—moving beyond independent technology paths to a new tradition that will bear even greater fruit. We know that the world's energy needs are changing. And our goal is to develop solar technologies that meet these changing needs—solar technologies that provide economic, environmentally clean energy for the 21st century and beyond.

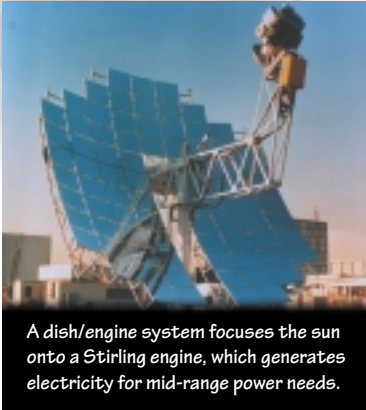
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Solar technologies for residential and commercial buildings are used in applications such as heating domestic water, pools, and ventilation air.

Sun Systems/PIX05978



A dish/engine system focuses the sun onto a Stirling engine, which generates electricity for mid-range power needs.

Boeing/PIX08469



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