

Sun Power

A Bright Idea



Have you ever sat on a hot car seat?

Ouch!

Have you ever strolled through a greenhouse in the middle of winter? Ahhh. Every day the sun sends down a huge amount of heat and light called "solar energy." Lucky for us, experts are finding new ways to use this energy. The great thing about solar energy is that it doesn't create air, noise, or water pollution like oil, gas, coal, or wood does. Plus we won't run out of sun power.

Experts are working on ways to improve sun power, so that at night and even on cloudy days sun energy has been saved and there is enough heat to keep warm. They're also trying to bring the cost down-to-Earth. It's becoming more affordable.

More houses and buildings are being built with solar collectors. They actually capture sunlight and change it into energy for power to heat and light our homes and buildings. Cool, huh? In the U.S. the most popular use of solar energy is to heat water! Australia, Japan and Israel are really hot on it too.

Also, we're already using solar energy for calculators, watches and toys. We are even using sun power to provide power to spacecraft and space stations. Another ray of hope is that someday soon millions of cars will run by sun power.



Gee, I didn't know the sun was so hot!

Yeah man! It's cool.

Interesting Sun Power Facts

- * There is lots of sun power available. We won't run out.
- * The devices used to trap the sun's energy are called solar cells. Put the cells together to form a panel. A solar panel soaks up the sunlight and changes it to usable electrical energy.
- * Once a solar power system is set up in our homes or work places, it will cost very little money.
- * Solar power can be used in places on the Earth where it is hard to build power plants.



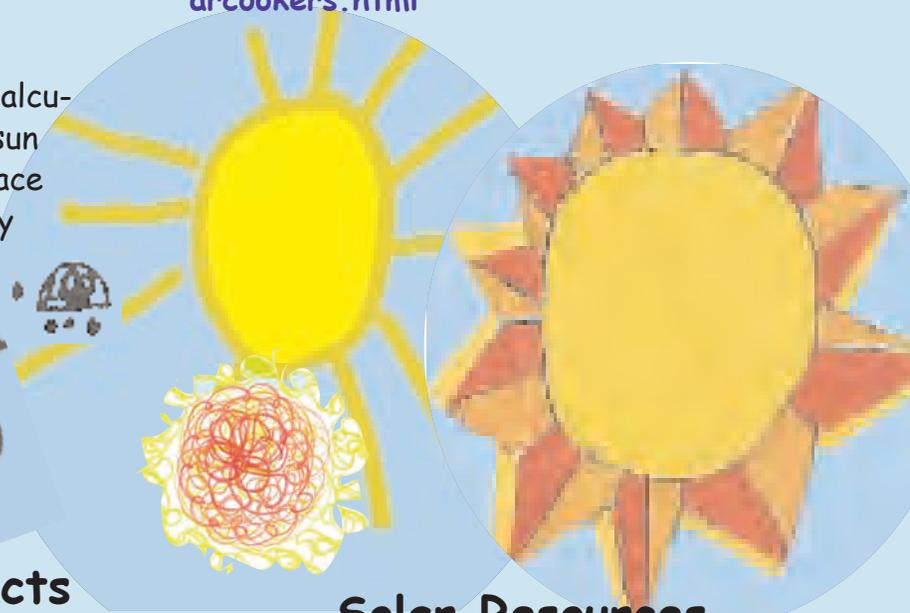
Kid Power

-  Send letters or drawings to your power company and government leaders to tell them to look to the sun for energy.
-  Sing *One Light, One Sun*, and *Just like the Sun* from the album "Evergreen, Everblue" by Raffi.
-  Make a poster and put it in your school. Tell people that 1 hour of sunshine on the Earth would give all of us enough energy for 1 year.
-  Find which way is south on your roof? That is where to put solar collectors.



What's Cooking? The sun, with the help of solar box ovens! In some parts of the world, forests are vanishing because people need to use the wood for cooking. Now, these simple ovens are coming to the rescue. They save trees and don't cause air pollution because they run on sun power. Learn how to build one and then cook some food for your family.

<http://pbskids.org/zoom/activities/sci/solarcookers.html>



Solar Resources

[Resources for Teachers](#)

[Solar Energy Experiment](#)

[For Young Children](#)