



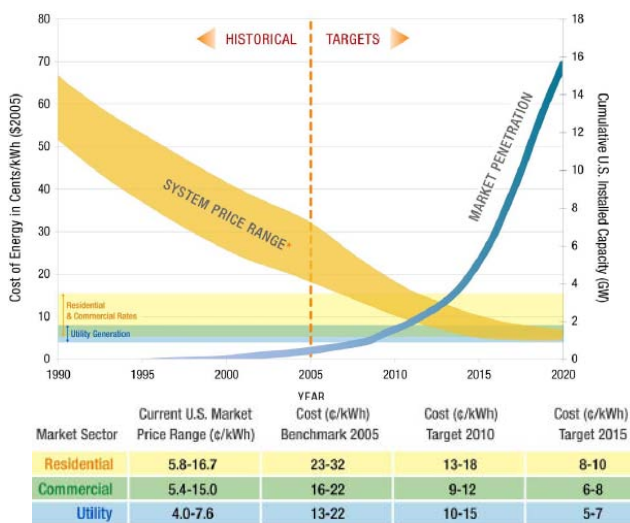
**U.S. Department of Energy
Energy Efficiency
and Renewable Energy**

Bringing you a prosperous future where energy is clean, abundant, reliable, and affordable

The President's Solar America Initiative (SAI)

Goal

The goal of the SAI is to achieve market competitiveness for solar electricity across all sectors by 2015 through public-private partnerships with industry, universities, national laboratories, state municipalities, and/or non-governmental organizations. When federal solar energy research began in the 1970s in response to oil price shocks, the cost of electricity from solar resources was about \$2.00 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Technological advances during the last two decades have reduced solar electricity costs by more than 90 percent, opening up new markets for solar energy.



Benefits to the Nation

When SAI reaches its full potential in 2015, PV could provide at least 5 GW of electric capacity (equivalent to the amount of electricity needed to power 1.25 million homes); avoid 7 million metric tons per year of CO₂ emissions; and employ 10,000 new workers. The SAI will return results to the U.S. economy even sooner – with partner companies achieving as much as a tenfold increase in production at 30 % lower costs by 2010. Through these results, SAI will enhance U.S. energy security and improve the environment by diversifying electricity sources, displacing the costs from new electricity transmission infrastructure, utilizing predictable and abundant U.S. solar resources, and providing a clean source of electricity.

Research and Development Strategy

Past program successes in fundamental research on PV cells now enable DOE to evolve its solar R&D strategy to focus on improving fully integrated systems. Through its new Technology Pathway Partnerships, the DOE intends to fund industry teams to reduce cost and scale-up production across the value chain, delivering lower cost systems to consumers.

Market Transformation Strategy

Although the SAI focuses mainly on cost reduction R&D, a critical secondary focus will be on barriers to technology acceptance, such as codes & standards, product rating, installer capabilities, and system financing. DOE will work with States, cities, non-profits, utilities, unions, and industry on these issues.

Capturing Economic Opportunity

As the cost of electricity from solar has fallen in the last decade, solar has become one of the world's fastest-growing high-tech industries. Our domestic industry has lost market share to competitors in Europe and Asia where government subsidies have helped. The SAI will help U.S. companies leapfrog international competition and regain dominance in this growing global marketplace.