UTAH OFFICE OF
ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

SOLAR

Solar energy is derived from the light and heat emitted by the Sun, which can be harnessed and converted into electricity, heat, or used in chemical reactions.

SOLAR IN UTAH

In early 2023, Utah ranked

14th
IN THE NATION

in the amount of solar power generating capacity, with 2,185 MW.

As of early 2024,

48

utility-scale solar farms are in operation in Utah with a combined generating capacity of 2,185 MW.

3295 MW

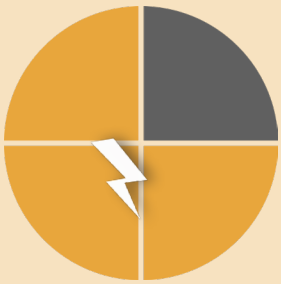
As of 2025, about 3,295 MW of new solar capacity is currently under construction of under development.

DEFINING ENERGY

Photovoltaic

(n) The process of harnessing solar energy involves the use of PV cells. Photovoltaics convert sunlight into direct current (DC) electricity utilizing silicon as a semiconducting material.

This generated power is then sent to an inverter, which converts it into alternating current (AC) electricity that feeds into the grid that eventually powers homes, businesses, and other facilities.



In 2023, electricity generation from solar facilities accounted for about three-fourths of Utah's generation, over 120 times greater than in 2015.

The total capacity of net-metered PV solar installations in Utah increased from 3 MW in 2010 to 517.8 MW in 2022. This increase in popularity is partly due to state and federal tax incentives.

Solar panels at Rio Tinto Stadium in Sandy, Utah

Utah enjoys an average of 238 sunny days per year, well above the U.S. average of 205 days.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

The first functioning solar panels were created in 1883 by American inventor Charles Fritts, using selenium wafers. These panels were installed on a New York City rooftop but only had an efficiency rate of 1%.