

Solar Cells

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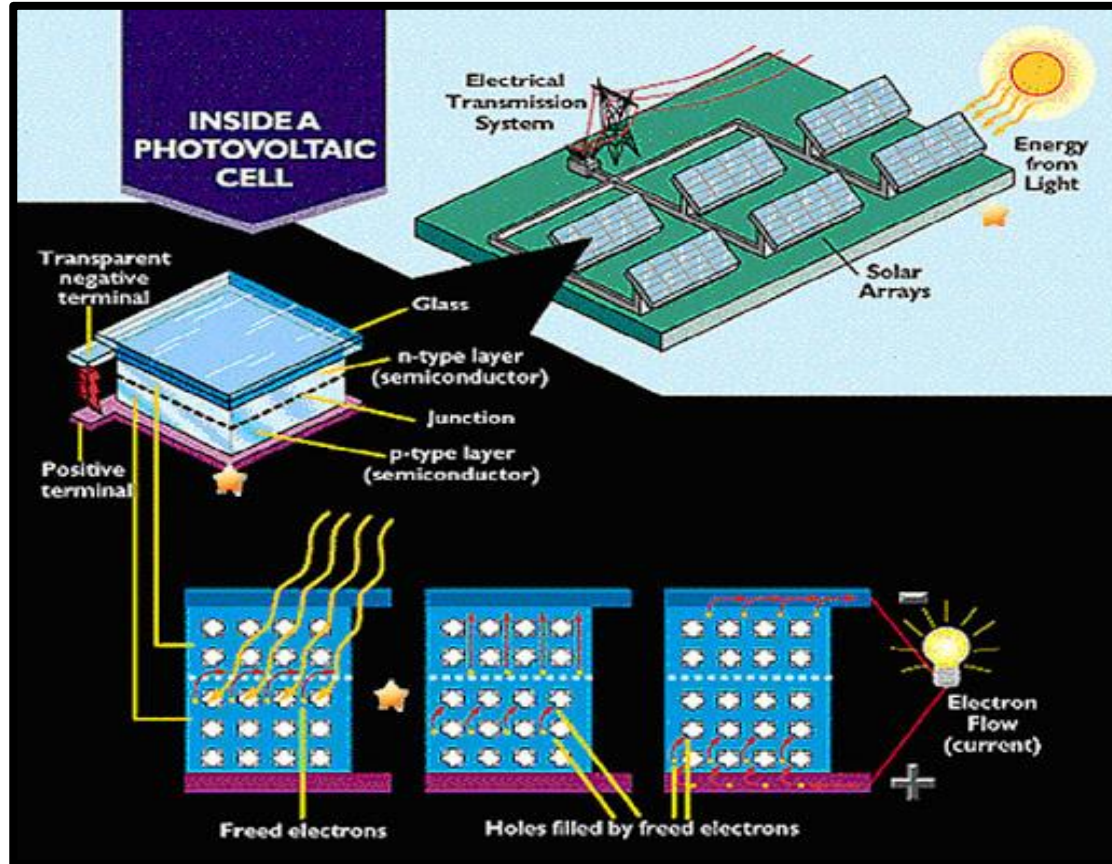


Key Terms:



1. Terminal: (adj.)
 - of or relating to an end, extremity, boundary, or terminus
2. Solar Cell: (n.)
 - a photovoltaic cell used as a power source
3. Photovoltaic : (adj.)
 - of, relating to, or utilizing the generation of a voltage when radiant energy falls on the boundary between dissimilar substances (such as two different semiconductors)

Solar Cells Diagram:



Photovoltaic cells are another word for solar energy



Pros and Cons of Solar Cells:

Pros:

- Solar cells are clean and non-polluting.
- It's environment-friendly and saves resources
- It provides electricity for large areas.
- There are no fuel costs or fuel supply problems.
- It's renewable energy.
- It gives you the opportunity to create savings on your electric bills.
- It's a good solution to prevent climate change.

Cons:

- Solar Cells are costly.
- The sun doesn't shine for twenty-four hours.
- They do not work during the night, when it's raining, and when it's cloudy.



Best Location for Solar Cells

The best place to put solar panels is facing south and as high as possible (to reduce current and future shading) with a tilt that is best for your latitude. You want as little shading as possible from trees, buildings, and other obstacles.



Mini Quiz:

1. What is a solar cell?
2. What does “photovoltaic” mean?
3. How can a solar cell be useful?
4. What are two reasons why a solar cell may not work?
5. How does a solar cell collect energy?
6. Where is the best place to place a solar cell?