

Eco=Kids Explore Solar Power

Solar power is defined as the energy we produce by converting sunlight into heat or electricity. It is one of the most abundant and affordable sources of energy available. The Eco Kids, hosts, Christian and Katrina, take us through each process of energy conversion to help us better understand this clean energy technology. They take a look at a variety of solar energy resources from solar collection panels, photovoltaic cells and finally to a large-scale solar energy power plant. Viewers get a clear understanding of how each of these sources of solar energy is manufactured and how it works.

Vocabulary used in this program

fossil fuels
green power
electrical generator
photovoltaic cells
solar panels
solar collectors
solar water heater
silicon

Questions

1. What are the positives for using solar energy? What are the drawbacks?
2. Why is copper tubing used in solar collection?
2. How do mirrors create energy in a solar power generating plant?
3. What is the difference between 'passive' solar heating and solar energy gathered in solar power plants?

For more information to help understand solar power:

EIA Kids Page: Solar Energy

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/kids/energyfacts/sources/renewable/solar.html>

U.S. Dept. of Energy: Lesson Plans and Activities

http://www1.eere.energy.gov/education/science_projects.html