



Large-scale solar power is increasingly economically competitive.

Millions of American homes now have rooftop solar panels.

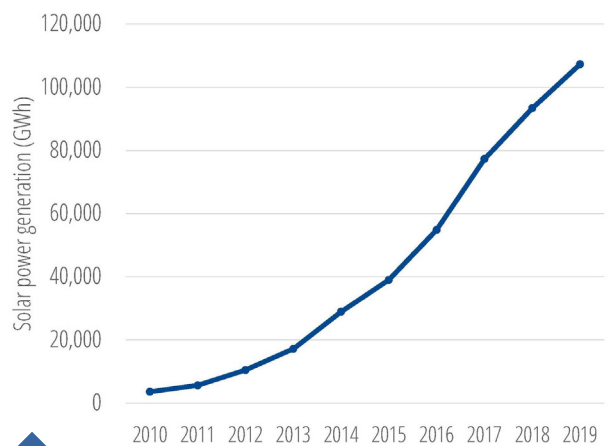
# Solar Energy on the Rise

## Solar energy is rapidly expanding across the U.S.

Solar energy is emission-free and virtually unlimited. America now generates enough solar electricity to power 16 million homes – bringing America one step closer to a future powered by 100% renewable energy.

### Solar energy has grown 30-fold since 2010

- In 2019, the 2 millionth solar photovoltaic system was installed, and experts predict from 2021 to 2025 the U.S. solar market will install 42% more solar than was installed over the past five years.<sup>1</sup>
- Solar energy provided 2.6% of America’s electricity in 2019, up from less than one-tenth of a percent in 2010.
- Solar energy accounted for nearly 40 percent of all U.S. electricity generating capacity additions in 2019.



Solar electricity generation grew 30-fold from 2010 to 2019.

### Solar technology is improving and prices are falling

- Solar energy is becoming more affordable. The typical residential solar energy system costs less than half as much as it did 10 years ago.
- The average solar panel installed in 2018 is 31 percent more efficient than one in 2010, enabling solar installations to produce more clean energy in less space.
- Solar PV is already among the least expensive sources of new electricity generation, and experts anticipate that prices will continue to fall.



Solar panels being installed in California.

<sup>1</sup> For a full list of sources, visit <https://environmentamerica.org/feature/ame/renewables-rise-2020>.

## Solar energy has tremendous potential

- The U.S. has the technical potential to meet its current electricity needs more than 75 times over with solar energy, and every state in the country has enough solar energy potential to supply all of its electricity needs.

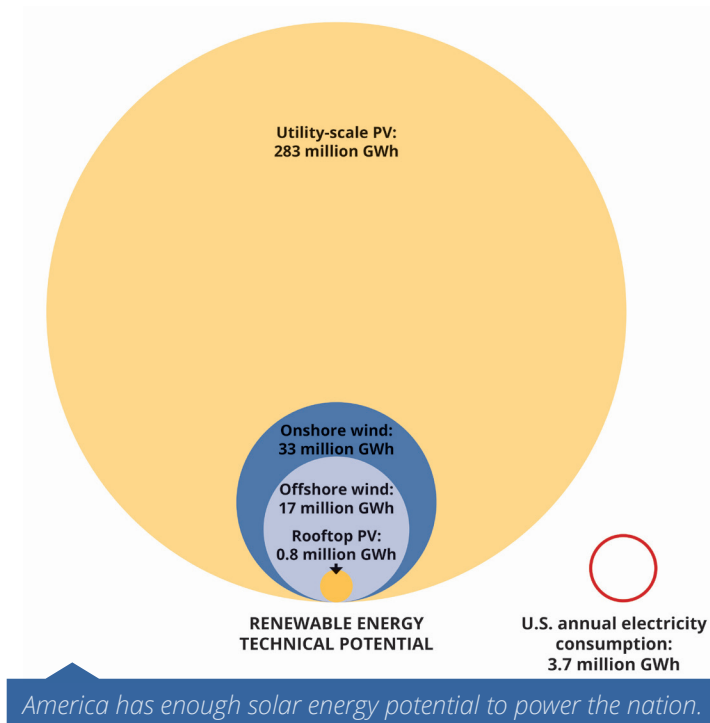
## Powering America with solar energy

To take advantage of America's vast solar energy potential and move toward 100% renewable energy, the federal government should:

- Continue and expand tax credits and other support for solar energy.
- Continue to support research to drive solar power innovations.

State governments should:

- Set goals to achieve 100% renewable energy and adopt specific requirements for solar energy adoption.
- Encourage solar energy through rebate programs, tax credits and financing programs.
- Adopt and preserve strong statewide interconnection, net metering and virtual net metering policies.



Rank	State	Increase in solar electricity, 2010-2019 (GWh)
1	California	41,725
2	North Carolina	7,545
3	Arizona	7,515
4	Nevada	5,294
5	Texas	5,287
6	Florida	4,491
7	Massachusetts	3,288
8	New Jersey	3,075
9	Utah	2,605
10	New York	2,447

*Top 10 states for solar electricity growth from 2010-2019.*

## Top states for solar energy

- California was responsible for 40 percent of the growth in the solar industry from 2010 to 2019, a legacy of the state's "Million Solar Roofs" program that accelerated solar energy growth starting in the mid-2000s.
- Many of the states with the most rapid solar energy growth have benefited from strong solar policies.

## Explore the growth of renewable energy online

Our report *Renewables on the Rise 2020* documents the rapid growth of clean energy technologies from solar power to electric vehicles. For interactive charts and data showing the rise of renewable energy in your state and around the country, visit <https://environmentamerica.org/feature/ame/renewables-rise-2020>.



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Find more information and the full report online:

[www.environmentamericacenter.org](http://www.environmentamericacenter.org)

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