Solar power system design calculations

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Learn how to plan, design and install a standalone solar PV system for electricity generation. Find out the factors to consider, calculations to perform and example...

Originally published 4-6-18

Imagine creating a device that never needs to be plugged in - harnessing the sun"s power to run indefinitely, anywhere.

It"s possible with the right approach to solar power budgeting and system design. Whether you"re developing a remote weather station, a solar-powered medical freezer, or a groundbreaking IoT device, understanding how to budget and design a solar power system properly is crucial.

In this guide, we"ll walk through the essential components of solar power planning, from calculating power consumption to selecting the correct battery and solar panel size. We"ll even provide a real-world example to illustrate these principles.

Ready to unlock the potential of solar power for your next project?

A power budget consists of the following:

Let"s explore each of these components in detail.

First, we must determine a device"s power consumption to quantify its required power.

We will convert device power consumption to Watt-hours per day since that coincides with typical solar illumination cycles.

To determine the number of Watt-Hours per day of power required to operate the device, use the following equation:

In addition to the power consumed by your device, there will also be some parasitic discharge from the storage element. This discharge is based on the type and capacity of the storage element.

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