

Solar to generate
electricity and to cook



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Solar technology is used to harness the Sun's energy to meet our power demand. The technology is based on the 'Photoelectric Effect' for which Albert Einstein got the Nobel Prize in 1905. Unlike fossil fuel solar energy is not going to run out, at least, not in the next 15 billion years.

Most importantly, it is the cleanest form of energy which is pollution and noise free. In the last few decades solar system efficiency increased to 30%, solar panel cost decreased to \$3 per watt. With these significant improvements over time, solar technology is not confined to non-commercial installations anymore. It is now found on artificial satellites, UAV, cars, green houses and corporate buildings. Scientists have taken it further.

The world has a large area of roads and concrete surfaces exposed to Sun. Scientists are planning to pave roads with solar modules. If the project succeeds the roads would be able to generate electricity, melt snow, direct traffic and even drive cars.

Like the rest of the world solar technology is also very popular in Bangladesh. People in Bangladesh use solar panels mainly to generate electricity and to cook food. Even though the government has taken an unthoughtful proposal of imposing 15% VAT on solar panels the country has installed the largest number of 'Solar Home systems'.

Nevertheless Bangladesh still has so much to improve. There is no solar panel fabrication facility in the country. Users are to import panels at a higher price which is not affordable for everyone. It is necessary to do more research on

solar technology in the universities. The scientists and researchers may show their potentials if they get the funding.