

Solar Power

What a difference a decade makes

enerG Magazine has now entered its 10th year of publishing—and the alternative energy industry has seen tremendous growth and advances in that time.

We thought we'd take a look at where solar power was 10 years ago—and where it is now. It has come a long way and continues to have a very exciting future!

SOLAR POWER

☀ In 2004, there was 500 MW of solar power installed in the U.S.

By the end of 2014, there was more than 20,000 MW.

☀ In 2004, roughly 15,500 homes in the U.S. had solar PV installations.

At the end of 2014 nearly 600,000 homes had installed a solar PV system.

☀ In 2004, the U.S. installed 58 MW of solar capacity.

In 2014, 14 states installed more than that amount, leading the U.S to over seven GW of solar installations.

☀ In 2004, less than \$500 million was invested in solar installations around the country.

In 2014 more than \$17.8 billion was invested in solar installations in the U.S.

☀ In 2004, only two states had installed more than 10 MW of solar capacity.

In 2014, 35 states have installed more than 10 MW, and 20 states have installed more than 100 MW.

☀ In 2004 the price to install a residential solar array was roughly \$8.40/watt.

By the end of 2014 that price had dropped nearly 60 percent to \$3.48/watt. The price drop has been even steeper for utility-scale solar: from \$5.80/watt in 2004 down 73 percent to \$1.55/watt in 2014.

☀ In 2004, there were fewer than 20,000 people at work in the U.S. solar industry.

Through 2014, that number has increased to 174,000.

Source: Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA)

