



Solar Energy Timeline Student Cards

First “solar hot box” is invented 1	Solar engine is patented 12
Solar water heater is patented 6	Over 60,000 solar water heaters in place in America 10
Predecessor of today’s solar collector is invented 18	Solar water heaters flourish until natural gas and electric heaters become inexpensive and readily available 2
‘Solar Homes’ become possible as more buildings are designed with consideration for active and passive solar gain 14	First home with integrated photovoltaic system, passive solar, and other ‘green’ features is completed 11
The ‘solar cell’ is developed 9	Oil embargo spurs interest in photovoltaics 17
Homes are designed for passive solar heat gain in winter and to block the hot summer sun 16	Solar energy industry is launched by scientists developing solar engines to power steam generators for ships 19



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Reflective surfaces are shaped as a parabola to light fires 3	Light is converted directly into electric current 7
First solar concentrator project is proposed for industrial use 21	Roof-mounted solar water heaters are produced in California 8
Photovoltaic cells are used to power U.S. space satellites 13	Solar powered, 2-way radios provide coast-to-coast conversations 5
More than 20 U.S. companies start producing flat plate solar collectors 4	Second oil embargo strengthens solar industry; solar panels are installed on the White House 15
First solar cell power plant is dedicated in Utah 20	Cost of solar cells are about \$77 per watt 22
Solar panels are removed from the White House 28	20% efficient solar cells are developed; cost of solar cells are about \$6.50 per watt 30



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40% efficient solar cells are developed 33	“Big Box” home improvement stores sell residential solar power systems 35
9 kW of solar power is installed on the White House 29	A 30% tax credit is made available for solar installations 23
A world record in solar cell efficiency is set (40.8%) 27	Cost of solar cells are about \$1.50 per watt 32
Solar electric power installations grow at a rate of 60% per year 34	In a five-year span, the number of jobs in the solar industry double 26
Juno reaches Jupiter’s orbit and is the most distant solar powered system 31	National Energy Act is signed, regulated feed-in of solar to the electric grid 24
First solar-powered calculators are used 25	First solar-powered flight around the world 36