

"The future of renewable energy in Texas is now. Establishing a diverse energy portfolio continues to be one of my major priorities for the state, and renewable energy plays a key role in that diversification."

– Gov. Rick Perry

With its large size and abundant sunshine, Texas has the largest solar energy potential in the nation. Due to its superior natural resources, manufacturing base, and world class research institutions, Texas is well positioned to compete with other states and countries in the global solar energy market that has grown quickly over the last decade. West Texas has some of the nation's highest levels of direct normal insolation and is suitable for supporting large-scale solar power plants. Direct normal insolation is the total amount of solar radiation that strikes a particular location over a given period of time, typically a single day, measured in watts hours per square meter.

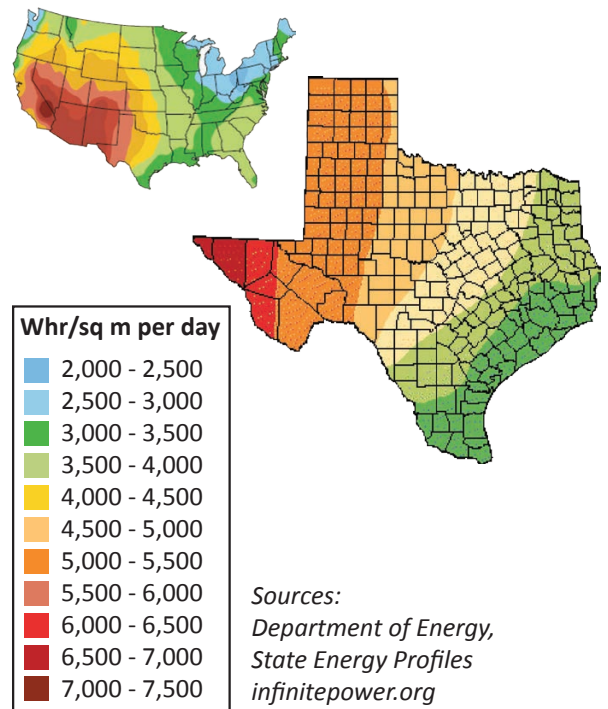
★ According to Solarbuzz, the 2010 global solar photovoltaic (PV) market size soared past previous forecasts and reached a record high of 18.2 gigawatts (GW) in 2010, a 139% increase. The PV industry generated \$82 billion in global revenues in 2010, up 105% from \$40 billion in 2009.

★ As of mid-2009, over 50 percent of Texas electric customers had access to a PV incentive program through their utility company.

★ A 2010 U.S. Department of Energy study ranked Texas as one of the top seven states for Concentrating Solar Power. West Texas alone is estimated to have enough potential solar capacity to generate up to 149 megawatt (MW) hours of electricity. The solar energy on a single acre of land in West Texas is capable of producing the energy equivalent of 800 barrels of oil each year.

★ In March 2010, Gov. Rick Perry announced the Texas Emerging Technology Fund was investing \$1.5 million in SolarBridge Technologies Inc. for development and commercialization of their solar energy technology. SolarBridge designs microinverters and monitoring systems to make installations cheaper, more efficient, and more reliable. They moved their headquarters from Illinois to Austin in 2009.

## Average Direct Normal Isolation



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