

# Red light solar power generation



## Overview

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A team of researchers from UNSW has developed a technology that can generate electricity at night by harnessing heat in the form of infrared light. The innovation could have future applications, from powering devices without batteries to using space satellites to generate power. The fabricated RSSCA prototype (a) incorporates custom secondary optics (b) to achieve the precise sunlight concentration (c) required to split the solar spectrum for simultaneous electricity generation and sustainable agriculture. Agricultural land is facing increasing demand, not just for food. Solar filters emit a red light over tomato plants growing in a research field at UC Davis in 2022. The work further tests the findings of a UC Davis study showing plants in agrivoltaic systems respond best to the red spectrum of light while blue light is better used for energy production. The sun's enormous energy may soon be harnessed in the dark of night following a significant advance in thermal capture technology. With their large temperature differences between day and night, deserts make ideal locations for thermoradiative diodes, which generate electricity when they are hotter than their surroundings. " It could eventually produce around one tenth as much power as a solar panel – but at night. Solar panels, as we all know, absorb energy.

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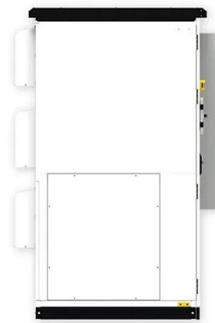


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As our planet spins around, solar radiation heats up the Earth during the daytime, but the Earth releases that energy again as infrared light into the cool of night. And it's this flow of



### [The 'solar cells in reverse' that can generate power at night](#)

To fill this gap, scientists are exploring solar-cell-like devices that could generate electricity by exploiting the conditions at night. Thermoradiative diodes are like solar cells in reverse.



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Plants don't utilize all wavelengths of light equally; red light is particularly crucial for photosynthesis and growth. The RSSCA system aims to address this by concentrating sunlight and ...



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