

# Solar Power

## What a difference a decade makes

*enerG Magazine has now entered its 10<sup>th</sup> 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)

