



# What kind of coal is used to produce photovoltaic panels





## Overview

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Coal, to make coke, is the most important, but this coal must be of special quality, very low ash, high fixed carbon, with specific reactivity (tested using SINTEF tests), and of a specific size. This coal is rather scarce globally, with Colombia playing an important role. I always thought that coal is “only” required to produce all steel. Let us have a look at solar panel manufacturing, which is really about silicon production. But first, on of metallurgical grade (mg-Si) silicon smelted. [1] Thus, the first step of solar PV production is gathering, transporting, and burning millions of tons of coal, coke and petroleum coke - along with charcoal and wood chips made from hardwood trees - to smelt >97% pure mg-Si from quartz  $\text{SiO}_2$  (MW). Is coal used to make solar panels?

PVC production requires coal, also an element used to produce solar panels (Source).



## What kind of coal is used to produce photovoltaic panels



### Is Coal Used to Make Solar Panels? (Let's Find Out!)

Solar panels require energy to produce; most manufacturers use coal as a source of energy because it is cheap. An average residential solar system produces about 7200 kWh annually; this needs ...

### 8 Major Solar Materials Used to Make Solar Panel

Here are the eight essential components that make up a solar PV module: 1. Aluminum Alloy Frames. Regarding solar panels, we usually consider the most fundamental raw materials: the solar cells that ...



### [Why do we burn coal and trees to make solar panels?](#)

Silicon smelters, polysilicon refineries, and crystal growers all require uninterrupted, 24/7 power that comes mostly from coal and uranium.



### [Are Solar Panels Made With Coal "Green" or Just Hypocritical?](#)

We have been told that a key ingredient in solar panels is sand. But sand is not pure enough to do the job. So, to make panels solar companies mine for quarts. That mining process ...

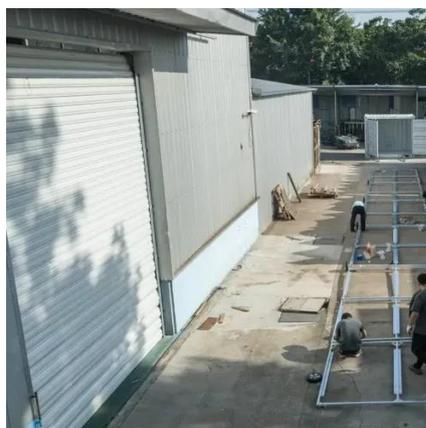


## Coal's Importance for Solar Panel Manufacturing

Today, there is not one single solar panel that can be produced without coal (or even oil and gas). The coal is required as a reducing agent for silicon making and as source for heat and ...

## Coal to make solar photovoltaic panels

Is coal used in solar panels? Yes, coal is used in producing solar panels and as a raw material to produce the chemicals used in the manufacturing process. The main chemical used during this ...



## [Why do we burn coal and trees to make solar panels?](#)

Coal - Is a dense, rock-like fuel. The (low ash) coal used directly for silicon smelting is mostly the "Blue Gem" from Cerrajón, Columbia, Kentucky, USA, or Venezuela. [1][2][3][5][6][7][8]

## [Are Solar Panels Made From Coal?](#)



[Updated: January 2026]

The answer is yes - coal is used to produce solar panels and as a raw material to produce the chemicals used in the manufacturing process. However, solar panels are a clean source of ...



### What Are Solar Panels Made Of and How Are They Made?

Answering that question means understanding how solar energy works, how solar panels are manufactured, and what the parts of a solar panel are. Most panels on the market are made of ...

### **Is Coal Used to Make Solar Panels? (Let's Find Out!)**

Answering that question means understanding how solar energy ...



### **How Much Coal Does It Take to Make a Solar Panel?**

To produce a solar panel it takes 11 tons of coal. A typical power plant produces 10 tons of ash for every ton of coal burned - so if the panels are made with this material, you've just ...



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