

ContainerPower Energy Solutions

Solar bifacial modules



Overview

The technology behind solar panels continues to evolve and improve. Manufacturers are now able to produce bifacial panels, which feature energy-producing solar cells on both sides of the panel. What are bifacial and monofacial solar cells?

Front and rear view of monofacial and bifacial photovoltaic (PV) modules . Bifacial solar cells encased in a glass/backsheet structure provide more power under standard test conditions (STC) than glass/glass PV bifacial modules.

How do bifacial solar panels work?

Traditional solar panels, known as monofacial panels, only use one side of the module for this process. The light that isn't absorbed by the panel is reflected away. Bifacial solar panels are different. These types of panels have solar cells on both sides, enabling them to absorb light from the front and the back.

Do bifacial solar cells provide more power?

Bifacial solar cells encased in a glass/backsheet structure provide more power under standard test conditions (STC) than glass/glass PV bifacial modules. However, glass/glass PV modules with bifacial solar cells deliver extra power in outdoor settings due to absorption from the module's rear side.

What are the applications of bifacial solar cells?

The applications of bifacial solar cells are the same as conventional applications of monofacial counterparts, with at least a 35% increase in overall power production efficiency. Initial applications of bifacial solar cells include using as sun-shading elements with a set of parallel strings with bifacial cells .

How bifacial PV modules can be characterized using a solar simulator?

In the process of characterizing the output power of bifacial PV modules using a solar simulator, three key steps are involved: establishing the bifaciality factor under standard test conditions (STC), assessing the power gain by

examining the yield of rear-irradiance, and determining the output power at rear irradiances of 100 and 200 W/m² .

Why are bifacial solar modules difficult to install?

The design and positioning of the junction box are some of the most challenging aspects of bifacial solar module installation. The module's rear side causes undesirable shadowing, affecting energy yield when junction boxes are placed in areas sensitive to illumination . This can result in a bifacial PV cell electrical mismatch.

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