

## Adventures in SOLAR ENERGY

Home About Me Archive Links

Posted by: Nick Tsuruda May 4, 2011

Welcome to my blog! My name is Nick, and I have decided to install solar panels on my house. The panels will absorb sunlight that can power my house. It costs to install the panels, but after that, the electricity they provide is free. I have to wonder though, will my power go out at night or on rainy days?



Solar panels covering the roof of the house convert sunlight to electricity.

Underline a benefit of using solar power. Write it in the organizer.



Organizer

Skimming means looking quickly at the text and its features to identify the main ideas.

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Benefit



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Definition

**Skimming** means looking quickly at the text and its features to identify the main ideas



Today, I met with Cynthia, who installs solar panels. She explained that the system stores the sun's energy in batteries that generate electricity, but my house will still be connected to the city power grid. On cloudy days, my panels might not generate enough power, so the power company's system takes over. What if the solar panels produce more electricity than I need? The excess current is transmitted back into the grid to be shared with my neighbors! How incredible is that?



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## Solar Cookers

by Kate Levine

NYAKACH, KENYA —
When your family cooks a meal, they probably use a stove or microwave, right? These appliances run on gas or electricity. In rural Africa, many people use wood fires to cook. Wood can be expensive or hard to find. Some women walk miles to gather enough to cook dinner!



A woman uses a solar oven to cook dinner.

Now, people without electricity have an alternative to wood: the sun! Solar Cookers International (SCI) is helping people in Kenya reduce their use of limited resources such as wood and reduce pollution from wood smoke.

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