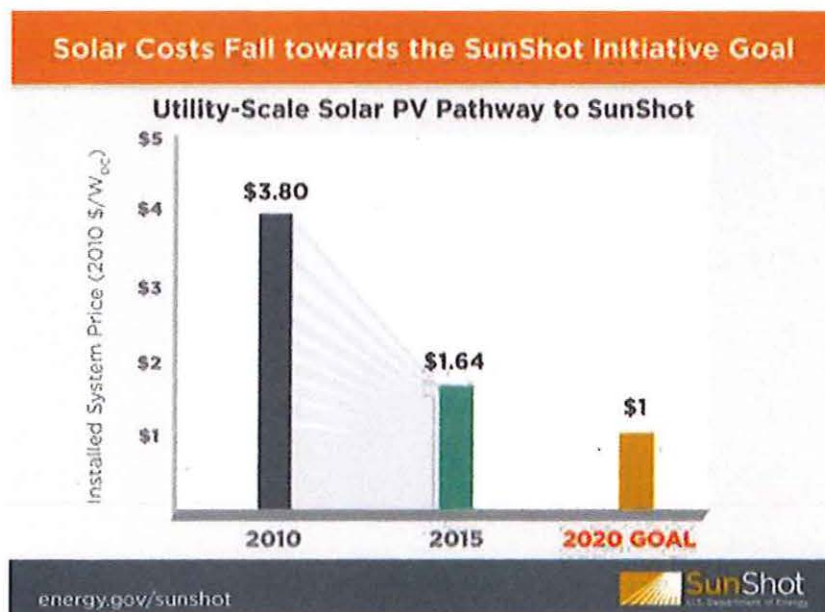


ENERGY.GOV ABOUT THE SUNSHOT INITIATIVE:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Energy Technologies Office focuses on achieving the goals of the SunShot Initiative, which seeks to make solar energy cost-competitive with other forms of electricity by the end of the decade.

WHAT WE DO SunShot funds cooperative research, development, demonstration, and deployment projects by private companies, universities, state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and national laboratories to drive down the cost of solar electricity to \$0.06 per kilowatt-hour or \$1 per watt (not including incentives). We work to make it faster, easier, and more affordable for Americans to choose solar energy in their daily lives. Five years into the Energy Department's decade-long SunShot Initiative, the solar industry is already more than 70% of the way to achieving SunShot's cost target.



SUNSHOT VISION STUDY 2012

Despite these benefits, solar energy currently supplies only a small fraction of U.S. energy needs, largely because it historically has cost more than conventional energy sources. However, solar manufacturing costs and sales prices have dropped dramatically over the past few decades, and solar technologies are approaching energy-price parity with conventional generating sources in some regions of the United States and abroad. Further, experience accumulated by solar manufacturers and developers, utilities, and regulatory bodies has shortened the time and expense required to install a fully operating solar system. These gains have come partly through research and development (R&D) and partly through U.S. and global solar market stimulation. An additional strong, coordinated effort could enable solar energy technologies to become increasingly cost competitive with conventional electricity-generation technologies in the United States. over the next decade.