

What is solar thermal power generation?

Harnessing solar energy for electric power generation is one of the growing technologies which provide a sustainable solution to the severe environmental issues such as climate change, global warming, and pollution. This chapter deals with the solar thermal power generation based on the line and point focussing solar concentrators.

What is solar thermal plant?

Solar thermal plant is one of the most interesting applications of solar energy for power generation. The plant is composed mainly of a solar collector field and a power conversion system to convert thermal energy into electricity.

Which thermodynamic cycle is used for solar thermal power generation?

Rankine, Brayton, and Stirling cycles are commonly used thermodynamic cycles for solar thermal power generation. The integration of thermal energy storage and hybridization of solar thermal energy systems with conventional power generation systems improves the performance and dispatchability of the solar thermal systems.

What are the emerging solar thermal technologies?

These emerging solar thermal technologies are: Electrical heat storage (including hot water tanks and compact heat stores, both residential scale and district heating scale) using the power from solar photovoltaics (on-site and/or off-site).

Can solar thermal power plants be integrated with conventional power plants?

Solar thermal power plants have enormous potential to be integrated with the existing conventional power plants. The integration of CSP systems with conventional power plants increases the efficiency, reduces the overall cost, and increases the dispatchability and reliability of the solar power generation system.

How can solar thermal components reduce the cost of electricity generation?

Advancements in the design of the solar thermal components improve the performance and consequently reduce the cost of electricity generation. This chapter discusses all the available CSP technologies and highlights the various design and operational parameters on which the overall efficiency of the solar power plants depends.

Solar thermal energy can make an important contribution here - together with other, preferably renewable, heat generators such as heat pumps, combined heat and power units, fuel cells, and biomass boilers. In addition, the increasing ...



