
Nighttime power generation and energy storage

Can radiative cooling generate electricity at night?

We demonstrate >100 mW/m² power generation at nighttime, which represents a significant advancement in the quest of using radiative cooling to generate electricity. Radiative-cooling-based nighttime power generation has been analyzed in Raman et al., 2019; Assawaworrarit et al., 2022; Chen et al., 2016.

Why do we need a power source at night?

At night, as the sunlight is absent, to provide power, one needs another source of energy from the ambient environment. Technologies such as wind (Holmes et al., 2004) and radio-frequency harvesting (Yeatman, 2004; Ajmal et al., 2014) have been proposed and tested.

Why does power density spike after midnight?

The spike in power density just after midnight is likely due to the thermal storage effect, which can lead to higher-than-expected power density when the ambient temperature drops. Requests for further information, resources, and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the lead contact, Shanhui Fan (shanhui@stanford.edu).

How much power can radiative cooling produce?

A previous study³⁰ has calculated the theoretical power density--the useful power that can be generated per unit area used to emit radiation--that can be harvested by radiative cooling from the earth's surface at ~ 300 K under a realistic atmospheric model to be $\sim 6,000$ mW/m².

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Delivering constant power every hour of the year, including cloudy weeks and seasonal lows, requires solar overbuild and more battery storage, they added. However, ...

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However, there are still challenges to overcome. Researchers need to make the technology more cost-effective, improve its efficiency, and develop better materials for ...

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On the other hand, solar power systems offer a promising solution to mitigate the over-reliance on fossil fuels during daylight hours. However, their effective deployment during ...

The coldness of the universe is a thermodynamic resource often neglected for renewable energy generation. Assawaworrarit et al. optimize an energy-harvesting system ...

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