

Can materials chemistry transform solar energy into electricity?

Materials chemistry is the key to unlocking these benefits, and chemists have taken up the challenge of creating new classes of materials that effectively convert solar energy into electricity and uncovering their hidden design rules.

Can solar cells be recycled?

The greatest challenge in the recycling of all solar cell types is to separate composite materials to be able to recover secondary raw materials from the individual fractions obtained as energy-efficiently and as purely as possible.

What is new in solar PV material discovery?

These publications explore the frontiers of new classes of solar PV materials, including organic PVs and metal halide perovskites, and they also span different aspects from understanding photophysics, to improving device lifetimes, and exploiting robotics-based material screening for high-throughput PV material discovery.

Which materials have the greatest environmental impact on emerging solar cells?

19 LCA studies on emerging photovoltaic systems or solar cells (SCs) were reviewed. For organic SCs, fullerene derivatives show the greatest environmental impact. For dye-sensitized SCs, glass substrates. For perovskite SCs, glass substrates, electrode materials, silver, and platinum. For quantum dot SCs, heavy metal-based absorber materials.

How are solar cells encapsulated?

Solar cells are usually hermetically encapsulated in polymers (e.g. ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers (EVA)) and epoxy resins to protect the active layers from environmental influences such as oxygen or water (vapor) ingress over the long term. The separation of this composite material is also known as delamination.

Are solar cells environmentally friendly and sustainable?

Despite all the advantages, however, it cannot be assumed a priori that solar cell technologies are generally environmentally friendly and sustainable since the extraction of raw materials, the manufacture of solar cells and PV modules production, and the recycling of used materials consume energy, and chemicals.

The mobile solar container market faces several formidable barriers for new entrants, starting with high capital requirements. Developing and manufacturing these systems demands ...

In this review, we discuss new material chemistry approaches that can be applied to reduce the lead leakage/wastage from damaged lead ...

Amita Ummadisingu, a lecturer at University College London, discusses her career path and thoughts on the

long-term use of perovskite ...

As a consequence, increasingly sophisticated manufacturing techniques and materials are being used in the development of new solar energy systems that are largely inaccessible in many ...

However, they did not take into account that the compatibility of these novel nanomaterials with the container materials could be modified with respect to the base salts. Indeed, ...

Materials that are used for these interlayers are doped conducting polymers, metal oxides nanoparticles or organic materials that induce dipoles at the interfaces. ...

Solar-driven catalytic plastic recycling has become a new research frontier and attracted extensive attention from the scientific community. ...

The aim of this Special Issue is to publish original research articles and review papers on chemistry research regarding advanced materials ...

Discover how mobile solar containers deliver efficient, off-grid power with real-world data, innovations, and case studies like the LZY-MS1 ...

With the world moving increasingly towards renewable energy, Solar Photovoltaic Container Systems are an efficient and scalable means of ...

This disruptive finding led to the emergence of a new thin-film photovoltaic family - the perovskite solar cells (PSCs) - presently one of the most investigated families of solar cells.

By introducing a naphthalene-diimide-based interlayer material with a covalently coupled zwitterion pair, the authors demonstrated that the ...

A versatile mobile solar PV container offering plug-and-play green energy solutions with modular design, high-efficiency panels, and global mobility for off-grid and emergency power needs.

All-polymer solar cells (all-PSCs) have attracted significant research attention in recent years, primarily due to their advantages of outstanding photo-thermal stability and excellent ...

This study evaluates the proposal of a concrete storage tank as molten salt container, for concentrating solar power applications. A characterization of the thermal and mechanical ...

This review examines the role of mechanochemistry in advancing photocatalytic materials for sustainable energy production. It highlights the development of visible-light-active ...

Abstract Thermal energy storage (TES) is an efficient solution for improving the dispatchability of Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) plants. A system, consisting of two tanks with Solar Salt ( $\text{NaNO}_3$  ...

Single-material organic solar cells (SMOSCs) are on the forefront of research on organic photovoltaics (OPV). The generic term of SMOSCs encompasses a ...

Two-junction solar cells with higher theoretical power conversion efficiency (PCE) show great potential for application in photovoltaic (PV) systems, among which the perovskite/c-Si tandem solar cell ...

Drawbacks of direct conversion of solar energy A silicon-based solar cell is the most well-known and commercialized method to utilize sunlight. It can directly convert solar energy into electricity and its ...

Achieving circularity transforms solar-cell design into the art of managing intrinsic trade-offs, harmonizing the ease of material recovery with photovoltaic performance.

To alleviate the resource shortage and environmental pollution, utilizing abundant solar energy effectively is a great challenge. In this article, a ...

Solar still systems often include organic phase change materials (PCMs) because of their remarkable thermophysical characteristics. Numerous innovative PCMs have been developed ...

Additionally, we analyze how these structural factors impact the material and device properties. By combining droplet-flow chemistry and defect-free synthesis, we ...

We hope that this themed issue on emerging materials for solar energy harvesting in the Journal of Materials Chemistry A will not only provide readers with new ...

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