

How do photothermal materials store solar energy?

Under solar radiation, photothermal materials capture photons and convert light energy into heat, which raises the temperature of the PCM. Once the temperature exceeds the phase transition temperature, the PCM undergoes a phase change and stores thermal energy in the form of latent heat, thus achieving the storage of solar energy [63,64].

Can photothermal materials be used in solar-steam generation?

Different categories of photothermal materials are introduced. Mechanisms of light to heat energy conversion over photothermal materials are presented. Applications of photothermal materials in solar-steam generation were reviewed. Future perspectives in the fields of solar-thermal energy conversions and applications are discussed.

How important are photothermal materials in solar energy systems?

In photothermal conversion systems, photothermal materials are typically the most critical and indispensable component, playing a decisive role in the overall system efficiency. However, the poor light absorption ability of PCMs and most minerals hinders their application in solar energy systems.

How can photothermal materials harness solar energy?

To fully harness solar energy, combining photothermal materials with mineral-based PCMs is an effective approach. Under solar radiation, photothermal materials capture photons and convert light energy into heat, which raises the temperature of the PCM.

What is solar-thermal energy storage (STES)?

Among various technologies of solar energy utilization, solar-thermal energy storage (STES) technologies are widely studied to counter the mismatch between supply and energy demand as solar energy is intermittent and weather-dependent [5,6,7].

What are the applications of photothermal materials?

The investigation of photothermal materials with broadband absorption is beneficial for the utilization of renewable solar energy, while the engineering of materials with efficient heat generation abilities can be widely useful in various fields, including water evaporation, (6,7) photothermal catalysis, (8,9) and biomedicine. (10,11)

The heated water can then be used in homes. The advantage of solar thermal is that the heated water can be stored until it is needed, eliminating the need for a ...

It is pivotal to improving the photothermal catalytic conversion by exploring efficient photothermal catalysts with intense broadband solar energy absorption and high efficiency of solar-to-heat ...

In addition to the photothermal conversion material, the evaporator skeleton is also a key part of solar steam generation. Aerogels, as ultralight porous materials made from aggregated ...

Here, authors introduce optical waveguide to regulate the solar-thermal conversion interface to enable the fast energy harvesting in solar-thermal energy storage system.

Summary Solar heat storage technology is urgently needed to harness intermittent solar energy to directly drive widespread heat-related applications. However, achieving high ...

Over-exploitation of fossil-based energy sources is majorly responsible for greenhouse gas emissions which causes global warming and climate change. T...

For instance, the solar thermal collector is one of the most common photothermal devices which has been already applied in our daily life. ...

A small-scale solar water heating study utilizing the photothermal conversion of the PCM composite is conducted, and the nocturnal water heating ability of the PCM composite is observed.

A water splitting system capable of operating stably using contaminated water sources for decentralized H<sub>2</sub> production would be a more practical approach towards solar H<sub>2</sub> ...

Solar energy, the most promising renewable energy, suffers from intermittency and discontinuity. Phase change material (PCM)-based energy ...

Applications of photothermal materials in solar-steam generation were reviewed. Future perspectives in the fields of solar-thermal energy conversions and applications are discussed.

NIR-light-responsive chemo-photothermal hydrogel system with controlled DOX release and photothermal...  
Monolithic robust hybrid sponge with enhanced light adsorption and ultrafast ...

Photothermal Heat-Storage Nanostructure-Assisted Water-Electricity Cogeneration System with Dual Solar Energy Inputs and High-Efficiency Heat Utilization

Photothermal catalysis can be classified into three distinct categories based on the interplay of light and heat in driving catalytic processes ...

Such designed sandwich-structured GO/Au-coated fabrics exhibited an enhanced synergistic photothermal effect and outstanding multifunctional performances in solar-driven personal ...

Owing to the low thermal conductivity of the material, heat localization is achieved by confining heat to the

gas-liquid interface, enabling an efficient photothermal evaporation rate.

The investigation of photothermal materials with broadband absorption is beneficial for the utilization of renewable solar energy, while the engineering of materials ...

Finally, we discuss the challenges encountered during the synthesis, modification, and application processes of photothermal mineral ...

For improved evaporation rates, a low-cost solar evaporation structure that rejects superfluous salt while preserving heat localization has been designed. To gather the produced ...

Solar-powered evaporation, as a foundational mass and heat transfer process, plays a pervasive role in driving applications around the globe, and humans have used it since ancient times ...

Graphical abstract A bio-inspired photothermal sponge was fabricated by embedding melanin-rich cuttlefish ink into a porous PDMS matrix. The sponge exhibits broadband solar absorption and ...

Solar photothermal power generation refers to the use of large-scale array parabolic or dish mirror to collect solar heat energy, through the heat ...

Increasing plastic pollution presents a significant challenge for humanity and ecosystems. Photothermal (light-to-heat) conversion has emerged ...

The ability of noble metal nanoparticles (NPs) to convert light into heat has triggered a lot of scientific interest due to the numerous potential applications, including, e.g. photothermal therapy or laser ...

These include the direct conversion of solar light into heat, a more efficient sun-powered generation of steam and the use of inkjet-printed patterns of photothermal NPs for anticounterfeit printing based on ...

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