

Australian scientists develop first clear energy harvesting glass

Western Australian scientists have developed an alternative to solar panels which could revolutionize the renewables game. They believe they have developed the world's first clear, energy harvesting glass which, if used in greenhouses, could produce crops in any climate or season.

The technology has been developed at Edith Cowan University's Electron Science Research Institute (ESRI) in Perth.

The glass is embedded with nanoparticles that work to draw out 90 per cent of the ultraviolet (UV) and infrared rays from the sun, and transfer those rays to solar cells embedded on the edge of the glass panels.

The energy harvested is used to power the structure, for example providing lighting, heating, cooling, or water desalination and irrigation.

ESRI has received a \$1.6 million grant from the Federal Government's Cooperative Research Centre, which will fund a 300 square metre trial greenhouse to be built in the Perth area.

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