

# PHOTOVOLTAIC FACT SHEETS

European Photovoltaic Technology Platform



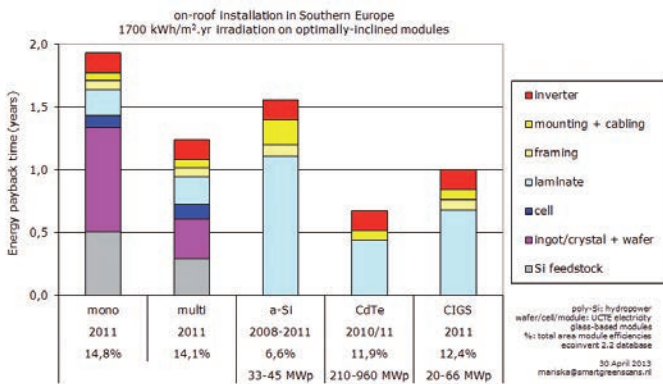
Some people state that "The energy balance is negative: Manufacturing a PV system consumes more energy than it ever produces in its life time."

The fact is: Photovoltaic (PV) systems, like every other product, do need energy for manufacturing. PV systems pay back this energy input within 1 to 3 years, depending on cell type and installation location. During its expected lifetime of 30 years, the PV system produces therefore 10 to 30 times the energy it originally consumed.

"We found that today's PV systems have an energy payback time of maximally 2 years under average Southern Europe irradiation"



Mariska de Wild-Scholten,  
SmartGreenScans, The Netherlands



The figure shows the current energy payback time for PV systems using different cell technologies and installed in Southern Europe.

Technology improvements which can be realised within a few years will result in energy payback times (in Southern Europe) well below one year for all major cell types.

Therefore the correct statement is:  
"The energy balance of solar PV is clearly positive today and will further improve as technology progresses."



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