



## Transparent Solar Power

Can you imagine a world where any surface could be coated with solar cells, converting sunlight and possibly even the glow of a light bulb into small amounts of usable energy?

Well, researchers at Michigan State University have created an exciting new product, a fully transparent solar concentrator that can be used in glass. Unlike other solar cells that claim to be transparent, ClearView Power Technology truly is. According to Richard Lunt, head of the research team, these new solar panels can be efficiently used in a wide range of settings, including displays and windows! That is great news for us energy efficient junkies in the business of building homes!

A start-up company called Ubiquitous Energy, co-founded by Lunt, is working to bring its transparent solar panels to the market. ClearView Power Technology is a transparent solar cell that can coat any surface to harvest ambient light and generate electricity.

The key is the way the company's photovoltaics take up light – by collecting wavelengths in the ultraviolet and infrared portion of the spectrum while allowing visible light to pass through. In contrast, traditional solar cells collect light in the ultraviolet and visible regions which prevent them from being completely transparent.

While this award winning company is still in the research and development stage, it continues to explore various materials and designs for a wide range of products and hopes to achieve an efficiency rate of 10% or greater. Currently, the company hasn't released a list of products or pricing but you can be certain we will be keeping a close eye on their progress.