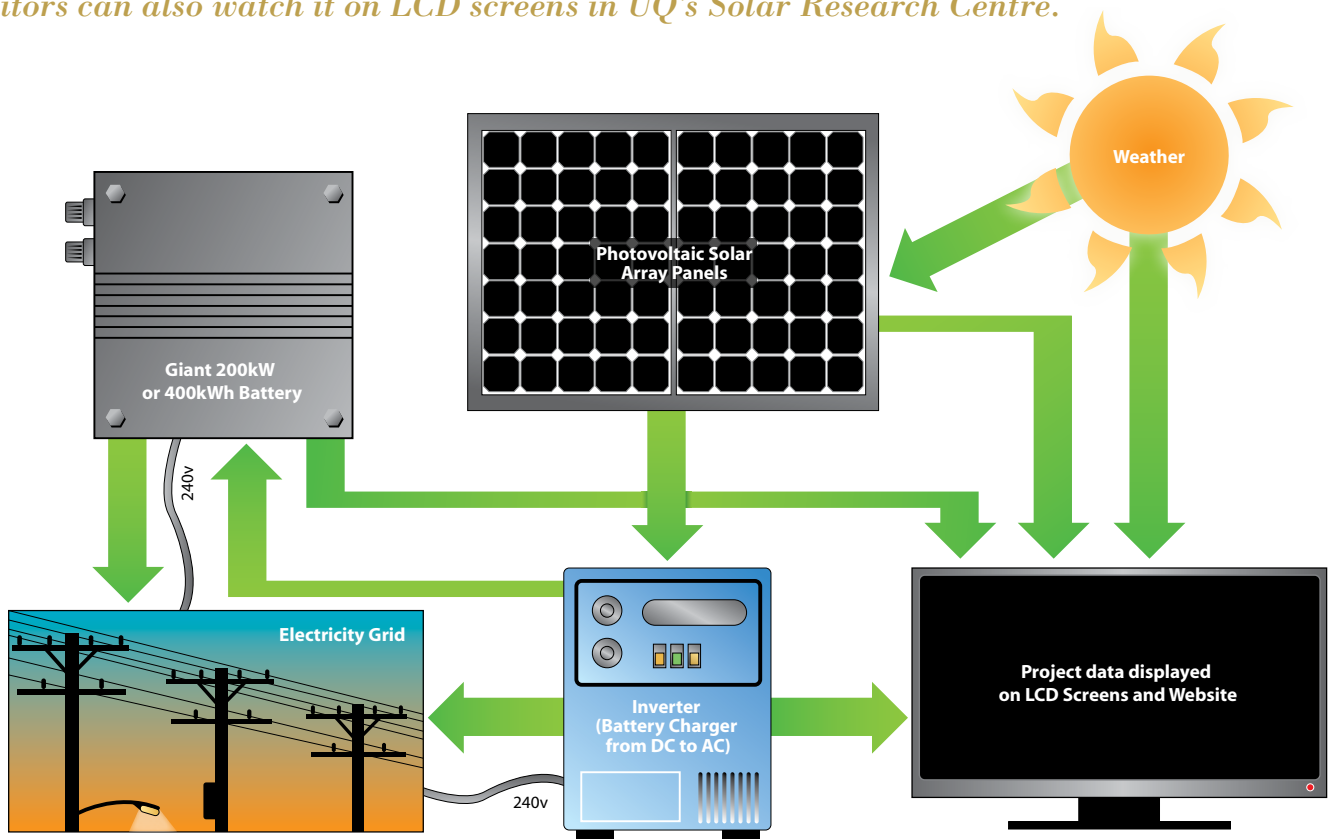


UQ SOLAR

THE PROCESS

UQ has installed more than 5000 240W flat solar panels to collect energy from the sun. This energy passes through one of 91 inverters and is then fed either directly to the electricity grid (for immediate use) or via a large storage battery (for use on the grid at peak demand times). The system details exactly how much energy is being generated at any time and this data is streamed live on the Internet at www.uq.edu.au/solarenergy. Visitors can also watch it on LCD screens in UQ's Solar Research Centre.



Why it has been set up this way

The system has been established to save UQ power costs, and also to compare electricity generation using different variables. Research results will be used to apply to other renewable energy sources such as wind, wave and biomass.

To complement and compare with the flat panel system, UQ has also installed a ground-mounted CPV array near the multi-storey carparks. By rotating almost 180° and tilting up and down, the array will automatically track the exact sun angle at all times of the day, every day of the year, and will produce full output from all sun during the day (unlike flat panels which produce full output only during the few hours either side of midday). This results in more energy generation per kW of solar panels installed.

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