

## BASIC SOLAR TERMS

**solar energy** – energy derived from the sun in the form of solar radiation.

**solar power** – energy from the sun that is converted into **thermal** or electrical energy (**PV**).

**Photovoltaic (PV)** – Solar converted into electricity

**Thermal** – Solar converted into heat

**Photovoltaic system** – a system which uses **solar cells** to convert light into electricity; consists of multiple components, including solar cells, mechanical and electrical connections and mountings and means of regulating and/or modifying the electrical output.

**array** – photovoltaic module/**panels** connected together to provide a single electrical output.

**tracking array** – a solar array that follows the path of the sun to maximize the solar radiation on the photovoltaic surface.

**electrical grid** – interconnected network for distributing electricity. **Off-Grid** – system that is independent of utilities. **On-Grid** – system connected to utility.

**remote system** – **PV** system not connected to **Grid**.

**silicon** – a chemical element from which semiconductors are made.

## BASIC ELECTRICAL TERMS

**direct current (DC)** – measure of kilowatt production of power in kilowatts and time in hours.

**inverter** – device that converts DC electricity into AC electricity.

**watt (W)** – the unit of electric power, or amount of work (J), done in a unit of time. One ampere of current flowing at a potential of one volt produces one watt of power.

**megawatt (MW)** – 1,000,000 watts.

**kilowatt (kW)** – 1,000 watts.

**kilowatt-hour (kWh)** – a measure of kWh production and time in hours.