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Solar energy blooming

Investment by electricity users in solar panels looks set to become a more attractive proposition.

The Font Solar Autonoma (FSA) is a system which produces and stores photovoltaic and thermal energy from solar radiation, for use at any time of the day or night. Uniquely, its solar panel is mounted on a rotating stand which tracks the sun's movements automatically, maintaining optimal orientation of the panel for power production at all times of the day and year. This, in turn, means that a

smaller number of panels are needed to generate a given amount of power, translating into advantages both financial and environmental.

Apart from being cheaper to install, an installation of FSAs occupies less space than normal and, crucially, uses less silicon; a non-renewable material; in the construction of the solar cells. Furthermore, on-site power generation reduces the need for high-voltage transmission, with its associated loss of energy. The tracking of the sun by the FSA may be likened to the movement of a sunflower, and its sustainable form of energy generation may be likened to that of plants. Nature in general should benefit from the switch to such methods.

Country: Netherlands



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