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In the new millennium of human progress, we have tapped into many forms of ecologically beneficial and free sources of energy. There are many basic forms of such natural sources of power, but only one has been available for consumer markets. Photovoltaic solar panels are the only source of energy that is reliably sufficient for modern living. While other natural sources need huge infrastructural development for being dependable, the sun is more accessible. Solar PV systems are now one of the primary modern sources of power generation. When we look at 21st century technologies that have come up with radical eco-friendly solutions, we turn back to the sun – the original force behind all the power on this planet and our basic primal life source.

Fossil fuels were used extensively for the past 100 years to fuel our progress. Cars, industry, generators, locomotion, naval travel – the uses for fossil fuels is yet too diverse to negate. However, this extensive use of coal, natural gas, and petroleum fluids has left the planet in a sorry state. Polycrystalline solar panels are more ecologically benevolent and reliable. Though they aren't yet applicable in cars with any dependability, they can be quite beneficial as household power units. But when we compare photovoltaic solar systems with other sources of natural energy, the vista is more complex. Let us study the other avenues of electricity generation in the 21st century compared to natural energy harnessed from the sun by technologies today –

Hydro Electricity Generation

Running water has been a source of energy for a long time as seen in history. However, the new age hydro electricity generation projects are massive in comparison. These projects are carried out by governments or mega companies by tapping into the flow of the river as a solution. The controlled flow of water turns turbines that generate the power. Solar PV modules are much smaller in scale and can be developed into consumer products even by SMBs and private enterprises. While hydro electric power is more of an alternate local power generation resource, solar energy can be used in gadgets and as home electricity generation from micro units. Solar PV systems are also much affordable than water electric projects in the development stages, even though Polycrystalline Solar Panels are costly to manufacture.

Wind Energy

This is another mega natural energy generation system that can only be undertaken by the governments and mega industries. Wind turbines are new, but windmills are age old. While the scopes of windmills were limited, these mega wind energy projects produce a steady reliable supply of power. However, just like water power, they are very big infrastructural investments; and like photovoltaic solar systems, they are affected by weather conditions. Polycrystalline solar panels are thus developed into smaller units for urban and rural energy readily over wind energy projects. Thus, compared to wind energy, the sun is much more reliable source of power. More companies are looking into the development and multifaceted manufacturing of Solar PV modules – a true example to 21st century energy.

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HK Chaudhary (a [solar PV modules manufacturer](#)) is a technical writer who often writes on energy developments in the simplest language.

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