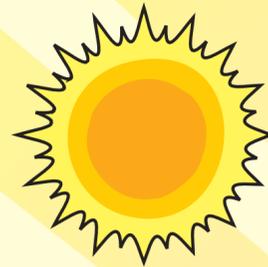
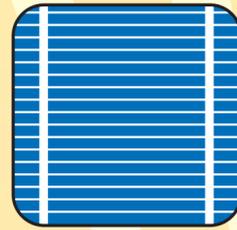


# HOW OUR PV SYSTEM WORKS



**1.** The SUN produces radiant energy 93 million miles away. This energy is transmitted to Earth in the form of photons, which we see as light and feel as warmth.



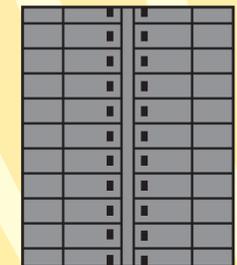
**2.** SOLAR PANELS are made of silicon-based photovoltaic cells. When photons of sunlight free electrons from their atomic orbit, the energy released is harnessed to produce electricity.



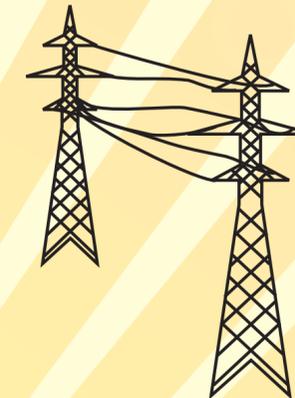
**3.** The INVERTER above converts direct current (DC) electricity produced by the solar array to alternating current (AC), the typical electrical current used in our homes and businesses.



**4.** An ELECTRIC METER above keeps track of the amount of electrical energy produced by the solar PV system.



**5.** A DISTRIBUTION PANEL in this building combines energy generated by the solar panels with utility-supplied power as needed.



**6.** The POWER GRID is the network that distributes electricity throughout our region. Excess electricity produced by the solar system goes to the power grid for use elsewhere.



This photovoltaic system was funded by a 2004 Energy Harvest Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Energy and by a grant from the Sustainable Development Fund.

