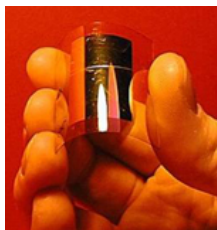


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By:



## [Plastic solar cell progress](#)

*Toronto scientists have invented a solar cell made of plastic*

Toronto scientists have invented a solar cell made of plastic which can be sprayed on and stores infrared light and can even be used on cloudy days. These are the first cells able to harness the sun's infrared invisible rays, allowing applications of the material to produce electricity under any weather condition, be it sunny or overcast. Scientists say that the solar cell material can be sprayed on any surface and relies on nanotechnology to deliver power. There's great hype about nanotechnology and what it could do to modern life, just think that one of the smallest functioning devices ever made is a carbon tube about 10 atoms wide that could one day shrink computer chip technology, developed by General Electric. Alternative fuel powered cars could be coated with the material to recharge batteries. Even clothing could undergo the same process and could turn into walking batteries for mobile devices. Professor Ted Sargent from the University of Toronto said the sun delivers 10,000 times more energy than people consume. Sargent believes that if 0.01% of the earth's surface could be covered with the plastic solar cell material and produce all the power we would need. Even though that can't be done, the professor developed a breakthrough solar cell technology that makes solar applications much more feasible. Professor Sargent's research team combined specially designed nano particles called quantum dots with a polymer to make the plastic that can detect energy in the infrared.