solarschools.net
data monitoring

Comparing Data Over Time

If you are lucky enough to be part of a solar school, this activity allows you to look at the change of output from your solar installation at different times of the day across different times of the year. You will be able to compare this to schools with similar size installation in different geographical locations.

If you are undertaking this study using the website information you will be able to compare the generation output at one location over time and how that compares with other geographic sites.

What you need to do:

- If you are in a solar school - record the generation output at regular times during each day of the designated study period.
- This may be each day for a week or month or once a week/month for the full school year.
- Graph each days output against the time of day

1. What time of day generally provides the greatest output? Would you have expected this to be the case? Why?

- Record the total generation output for each day of your study for each of the school(s) you are analysing as detailed in "Analysing Solar School Data".
- Graph each schools output data by day/week/month

2. What does the data and the graph tell you about changes to solar generation output over the time period studied?

3. How does daily weather affect output?

4. How does output change with the seasons?

5. Would you expect to see a similar pattern across all geographic areas? Why?