



“The Future of Solar Energy is Bright!”

Abstract: Dr. Mary Anne White, Dalhousie University

How Phase Change Materials Can Help Make Solar Thermal Capture Feasible

Thermal capture of solar energy can be limited due to intermittency of the solar source, and/or the need for large volumes or mass of material to hold the solar energy for subsequent use. Phase change materials (PCMs, such as materials that melt) can store a significant quantity of energy in a relatively small volume, compared to sensible storage in water or rock. The energy stored in a PCM can be accessed hours or even weeks later, by triggering the reverse phase change (e.g., solidification). This talk will summarize the international context of PCMs for solar thermal capture, and our recent research in this area.