Appendix I

Solar Module Glare and Reflectance Technical Memo

Technical Notification

TITLE: SunPower Solar Module Glare and Reflectance
AUTHORS: Technical Support
APPLICATION: Residential/ Commercial
SCOPE: SunPower Modules

SUMMARY:

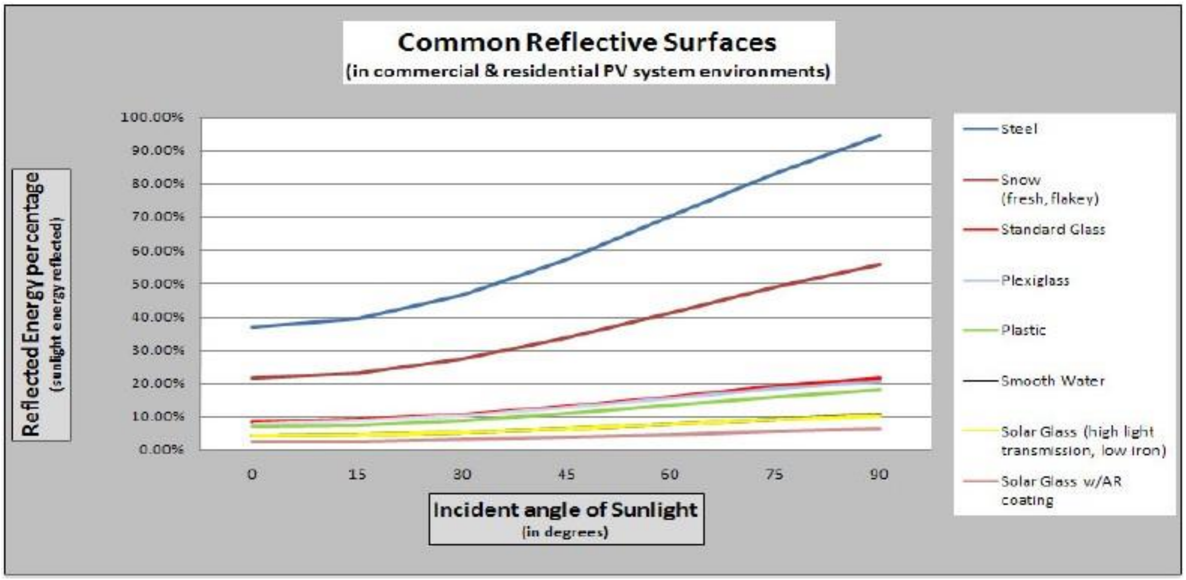
The objective of this document is to increase awareness concerning the possible glare and reflectance impact of PV Systems on their surrounding environment.

The glare and reflectance levels from a given PV system are decisively lower than the glare andreflectance generated by the standard glass and other common reflective surfaces in the environments surrounding the given PV system. Concerning random glare and reflectance observed from the air: SunPower has several large projects installed near airports or on air force bases. Each of these large projects has passed FAA or Air Force standards and all projects have been determined as "No Hazard toAir Navigation". Although the possible glare and reflectance from PV systems are at safe levels and are usually decisively lower than other standard residential and commercial reflective surfaces, SunPower suggests that customers and installers discuss any possible concerns with the neighbors/cohabitants near the planned PV system installation.

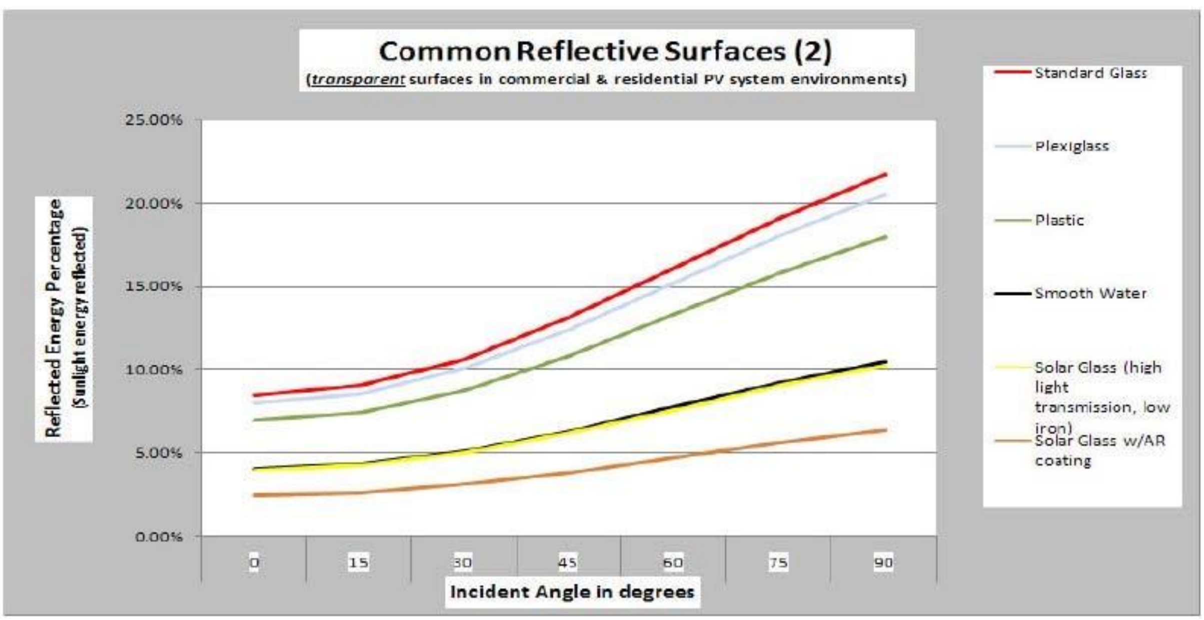
DETAILED EXPLANATION:

In general, since the whole concept of efficient solar power is to absorb as much light as possible while reflecting as little light as possible, standard solar module produces less glare and reflectance than standard window glass. This is pointed out very well in US Patent #6359212 which explains the differences in the refraction and reflection of solar module glass versus standard window glass. Solar modules use "high-transmission, low iron glass" which absorbs more light, producing small amounts of glare and reflectance than normal glass.

In the graph below, we show the reflected energy percentages of sunlight, of some common residential and commercial surfaces. The legend and the graph lists the items from top to bottom in order of the highest percentage of reflected energy.



It should be noted that the reflected energy percentage of Solar Glass is far below that of a standard glass and more on the level of smooth water. Also, below are the ratios of the common reflective surfaces:



Light beam physics resolves that the least amount of light is reflected when the beam is the normal, in other words, least light energy is reflected when the beam is at 0 degrees to the normal. The chart below is a result of light beam physics calculations:

Common Reflective Surfaces (in surrounding environments for PV systems)		Incident angle in degrees						
		0	15	30	45	60	75	90
Material Reflectivity (percent of incident light reflected)	Steel	36.73%	39.22%	46.34%	57.11%	70.02%	83.15%	94.40%
	Snow (fresh, flakey)	21.63%	23.09%	27.29%	33.63%	41.23%	48.96%	55.59%
	Standard Glass	8.44%	9.01%	10.65%	13.12%	16.09%	19.10%	21.69%
	Plexiglass	8.00%	8.54%	10.09%	12.44%	15.25%	18.11%	20.56%
	Plastic	6.99%	7.46%	8.82%	10.87%	13.33%	15.83%	17.97%
	Smooth Water	4.07%	4.35%	5.14%	6.33%	7.76%	9.22%	10.47%
	Solar Glass (high light transmission, low iron)	3.99%	4.26%	5.03%	6.20%	7.61%	9.03%	10.26%
	Solar Glass w/AR coating	2.47%	2.64%	3.12%	3.84%	4.71%	5.59%	6.35%

(Note: Index of refraction values may vary slightly depending on suppliers and reference documentation. The values for the above calculations are averages or single values obtained from the list of references for this document).

Important reference – "Stipples glass": In addition to the superior refractive/reflective properties of solar glass versus standard glass, SunPower uses stippled solar glass for our modules. Stippled glass is used with high powered telescopes and powerful beacons and lights. The basic concept behind stippling is for the surfaces of the glass to be textured with small types of indentations. As a result, stippling allows more light energy to be channeled/ transmitted through the glass while diffusing the reflected lightenergy. This concept is why the reflection of off a SunPower solar module will look hazy and less-defined than the reflection from standard glass, this occurs because the stippled SunPower glass is transmitting a larger percentage of light to the solar cell while breaking up the intensity of the reflected light energy.

SUMMARY/ACTION REQUIRED:

The studies, data and light beam physics behind the charts and graphs prove beyond a reasonable doubt that solar glass has less glare and reflectance than standard glass. The figures also make it clear that the difference is very decisive between solar glass and other common residential/commercial glasses. In addition, not to be lost in the standard light/glass equations and calculations, the SunPower solar glass is stippled and has a very photon-absorbent solar cell attached to the back side, contributing two additional factors which results in even less light energy being reflected.

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