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What is a building integrated photovoltaic (BIPV)?

In this whitepaper, we focus on the specification of building integrated photovoltaics (BIPVs). These types of solar panel systems are unique in that they are modules that are built into the building envelope, replacing conventional building materials, thus becoming an integral part of the architectural design.

What is a building integrated PV system (BAPV)?

PV panels are mostly installed as PV systems placed on the ground, water surfaces or rooftops. PV installations added to an existing building and with the sole purpose of electricity generation are not termed Building Integrated but Building Applied PV systems or BAPV.

What is a BIPV roof?

is a 2-in-1 technology which combine Panel + Metal Roof Building Material) together and mounted on building purlins part of the building itself. BiPV due to its building materials nature, mount tightly to purlins as part of the building, it can cover the full roof space, therefore roof space utilization rate can be often >90% (+20% higher).

What is a BAPV solar installation?

BAPV is the more common type of installation, with the solar collectors located completely outside of the building envelope. Roof-mounted, ballasted solar arrays placed on top of the roofing material are BAPV assemblies. A BIPV installation is when the photovoltaic collectors are an integral part of the building envelope.

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