# *Lesson: Solar Power*

# Purpose:

It is the energy source that burns your skin in the summer, allows photosynthesis to take place, that lets you see the road in the daytime without the use of headlights, and the energy that makes the sand at the beach too hot to walk on. You have probably figured out that the energy source we are talking about is energy from the Sun, or solar energy. Solar energy is capable of much more than just lighting up the daytime, it can actually be converted into electricity to be used to light up the night as well as many other great applications. How does solar energy work and how can we use it?

**Directions:** Access the commodities and products tab on the AgMRC website (http://www.agmrc.org) and find the link to Renewable Energy. Utilize information located here to answer the questions below:

1. How is solar power defined by the AgMRC website and what are three of its uses?
2. Solar thermal collectors are divided up into three different categories. What are the three categories? Provide a brief description for each as outlined by the AgMRC website.
3. After examining the United States electricity usage and demand, what do you think the future trend for solar power will be and why?