Engineers around the world are striving to create new sources of nonpolluting energy. Nowhere are these efforts more pronounced than in the field of solar research. The promise of clean and abundant energy from the sun is fueling a global push to improve the technologies we have today. In three significant advances, Stanford engineers have developed flexible solar cells that can be attached to virtually any surface, a solar cell that set a record for thinness and a new type of solar panel that cools even in the midday sun.

BY ANDREW MYERS PHOTOGRAPH BY TIMOTHY ARCHIBALD

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