



**NKOSITHANDILEB SOLAR**

# **Semi-hidden solar curtain wall solution**



## Overview

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Can vacuum integrated photovoltaic curtain walls reduce energy consumption?

Scientists in China have outlined a new system architecture for vacuum integrated photovoltaic (VPV) curtain walls. They claim the new design can reduce building energy consumption and yield more surplus power generation electricity.

What is a solar curtain wall?

The company's 'solar curtain wall' covered the entire side of a building with plastic solar film encased in glass. This installation was expected to provide 1.5 kW of power. Unfortunately, the company filed for bankruptcy in 2012 but they did help to further the solar power curtain concept. Another option comes from a company called SolarGaps.

Should VPV curtain walls have low PV coverage?

By contrast, VPV curtain walls with low PV coverage may have overheating issues, but may help the building require less energy for lighting and heating. "Thus, the single-objective optimal design of the VPV curtain walls is unable to balance its restrictive and even contradictory functions," they stated.

Can a multi-function partitioned design be used for PV curtain walls?

"For the first time, a multi-function partitioned design method for PV curtain walls was proposed, which aims at reconciling the competing demand of different functions of PV curtain walls such as daylight, view, and power generation," the research's lead author, Jinqing Peng, told pv magazine.

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