

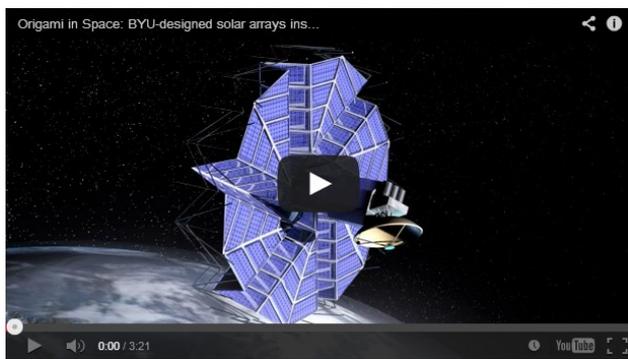


Forum Changes

Some of you may have noticed some changes to the Microgen Database **Forum** this month - the threads are now split into categories to make for easier browsing of the forum. This is still under development (we haven't yet sifted through old threads to categorize them) so please get in touch if you spot any bugs or have any ideas for features.

Origami PV

A team at NASA has sought the help of Origami expert Robert Lang to help design a solar PV array that unfolds to nearly ten times its packed size:



The design should make it possible to deploy much larger solar arrays in space using the current generation of transport rockets. Read more [here](#).

Sharp Wrexham Plant to Cease Production

The Sharp PV manufacturing plant in Wrexham will cease production in February, with the company citing "increasingly severe" market conditions in Europe. The company has said it plans to focus on it's domestic (Japanese) market, where the demand for PV is rapidly growing. Up to 250 redundancies are expected. Read the full story [here](#).

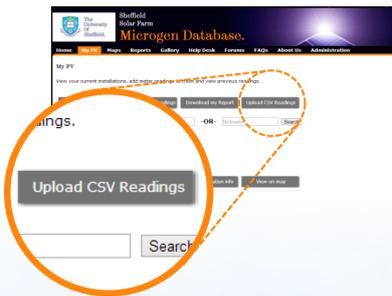
Home-made Solar Tracker

One of our more technical users has been hard at work building his own single-axis tracked solar array. The system uses mostly recycled components combined with a live light tracker - impressive work! Keep an eye on the [performance maps](#) to see if it outperforms static systems.



Uploading Readings

We've resurrected the CSV importer on the site with a new and improved file-checking algorithm. This tool provides a fast way to upload several readings at a time without waiting for us to process your data. You'll find a link to it from the [My PV](#) section of the site, with further help available in the [FAQs](#).



Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of our users from the Sheffield Solar Team. We'll be running a reduced service over Christmas whilst we indulge in mulled wine and mince pies, but we'll be checking emails periodically so please continue to contact us as normal.



A home-made single axis tracked PV array. Picture uploaded by one of our donors.

Upload your interesting images of PV to the [Microgen Gallery](#) to see them feature in future newsletters.

