

North American Solar Ecosystem





Overview

How much land does solar energy use?

Solar energy's footprint is land-use intensive (km²/TWhr) relative to other renewable and traditional forms of energy (Trainor et al. 2016) and may require between six to eight acres per MW (DOE 2021a).

Why are large-scale solar energy facilities becoming more popular?

The development of large-scale solar energy facilities is expanding quickly to meet growing electricity generation needs in the U.S. in the coming decades.

Does solar development affect ecosystem function of Natural Lands?

Moreover, ecosystem enhancements at PV facilities will depend on the region of the United States; persistence of long-term adverse effects of solar development on ecosystem function of natural lands, such as desert-shrub lands and forest habitats is worthy of study (see also mitigation below).

How many acres are needed for solar-energy conversion?

For example, the Department of Energy (DOE) estimated that 10.3 million acres are needed for solar-energy conversion to meet the decarbonization goals of the United States (DOE 2021a), and this increase in land conversion may bring solar-wildlife challenges and opportunities to the forefront of conservation research.



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North American Clean Energy

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Wildlife and Solar Power

Dec 4, 2025 · Environmental Benefits: Solar projects provide benefits that improve ecosystem health and support biodiversity, such as reduced pollution, reduced emissions, and land ...

Increased terrestrial ecosystem carbon storage associated ...

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Naming the 2025 North American Agrivoltaics Awards Winners

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Solar Energy Interactions with Wildlife and Their Habitats

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