



# Is it a good idea to install photovoltaic panels by the river

Can solar panels save water?

The idea is simple: install solar panels over canals in sunny, water-scarce regions where they reduce evaporation and make electricity. A study by the University of California, Merced gives a boost to the idea, estimating that 63 billion gallons of water could be saved by covering California's 4,000 miles of canals.

Can solar panels be installed over canals?

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Are solar panels on water canals a good idea?

Solar panels on water canals seem like a no-brainer. So why aren't they widespread? One study estimates that covering California's canals with solar panels could generate enough energy to power Los Angeles for most of the year. Back in 2015, California's dry earth was crunching under a fourth year of drought.

Can solar panels save water in California's canals?

California's efforts got a jump start from a 2021 study published by Bales and his colleagues, who determined that covering the state's canals with solar panels could reduce evaporation by as much as 90 percent and save 63 billion gallons of water per year-- enough to meet the residential water needs of more than two million people.

Can solar panels be installed on water reservoirs?

Insufficient power lines and access to canals for maintenance are possible barriers too. She was similarly cautious when I asked her about solar panels on water reservoirs, a question prompted by the recent news that two wastewater treatment ponds in Sonoma County are now home to the nation's largest floating solar farm.

Can solar panels help reduce water evaporation in California?

As the state gets hotter, more and more water will evaporate away from its canals, which the panels can help attenuate. While the researchers focused on California in this study, this kind of modeling "could easily be applied to other locations," McQuinn says.

Solar panels: At the heart of floating solar farms lie PV panels, housing numerous solar cells that work their magic, turning sunlight into direct current (DC) electricity through the photovoltaic effect.: Floatation platforms: ...

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