

Is photovoltaic solar energy sustainable?

Photovoltaic (PV) solar energy is among the most promising and fastest-growing renewable. The potential environmental consequences of the development PV industry are summarized. Positive changes brought by technological and strategic innovation are analyzed. Some proposals are recommended to improve PV technology's sustainability.

What is a highway photovoltaic system?

Schematic diagram of the highway photovoltaics (PV) system. Roofing highways with solar panels generates green electricity that is delivered to the grid to replace the electricity from fossil fuels, thereby contributing to CO₂ emission reductions.

Can solar panels be used in a roofing Highway?

Photovoltaic (PV) installations are a leading technology for generating green electricity and reducing carbon emissions. Roofing highways with solar panels offers a new opportunity for PV development, but its potential of global deployment and associated socio-economic impacts have not been investigated.

Should solar panels be tilted to maximize power generation?

To maximize power generation, tilt angle should be adjusted to ensure that PV panels are exposed to direct sunlight. Although sun-tracking system can track sunrays in real time to approach the best tilt angle, the investment is too expensive (or not economical) for both residential users and large solar farms [6,7].

Can roofing solar panels increase electricity generation over secondary roads?

Additionally, we investigate the possible increase in electricity generation by roofing solar panels over secondary roads with broader geographical coverage and higher density (Figure S1b in Supporting Information S1). The annual electricity generation of the secondary-road PV is 13,570 TWh, corresponding to an installed capacity of 10,191 GW.

What is the optimum tilt angle for solar panels?

In our experiments, the optimum tilt angle can be as low as 0°; in summer for locations near the Tropic of Cancer, but in practice, installers may tilt the panel at slightly larger angle to allow rainfall to naturally clean the panel.

4. Conclusions

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