

Social effects of solar photovoltaic power generation

How will solar photovoltaics affect energy production?

Soaring global deployment of solar photovoltaics (PV) could mitigate problems related to energy generation, but may exacerbate other issues. PV manufacturing depletes scarce resources, such as silver, tellurium and copper 1,2. For instance, silver production could peak by 2030, with a risk of demand outstripping supply around 2075 3.

What are the environmental impacts of solar photovoltaic panels?

Life cycle assessment exhibited some environmental impacts associated with the management of solar photovoltaic panels, including human toxicity, acidification, terrestrial eutrophication, freshwater ecotoxicity, and the decline of mineral, fossil, and renewable resources (Daniela-Abigail et al. 2022).

Do solar PV systems impact the environment?

The previous literature review reveals a well-established environmental impacts assessment of the solar PV systems is crucial. Currently, there is a gap in the literature regarding the impact of different PV system components on the environment.

How does solar energy impact the environment?

The environmental impact of PV as seen from the studies in the literature does not only include carbon emissions but also extends to include evaluating the noise pollution coming from mainly the construction phase. Researchers recommended utilizing PV system installations as noise barriers beside highways for example.

Does photovoltaic development affect the environment?

Moreover, all indicators in the scheme layer, which are used to evaluate ecological and environmental quality, yielded higher scores for the WPS than for the TPS and OPS, demonstrating that photovoltaic development has a positive effect on desert area ecology and the environment.

What are the challenges in generating power from solar energy?

However, the key challenges in generating power from solar energy are the availability of resources, the local environment, energy storage, social implications, and the price of generated power.

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