



# Vegetation protection plan for photovoltaic panel areas

How do solar panels affect vegetation management?

Where feasible, consider planting native vegetation around the solar panels. Native plants are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions, often requiring less water and maintenance. They can also provide habitat for local wildlife, promoting biodiversity. The layout of solar panels can influence vegetation management.

Can solar photovoltaics be co-located with vegetation?

Co-locating solar photovoltaics with vegetation could provide a sustainable solution to meeting growing food and energy demands. However, studies quantifying multiple co-benefits resulting from maintaining vegetation at utility-scale solar power plants are limited.

Do solar photovoltaic panels promote vegetation recovery?

Liu Y, Zhang R, Huang Z, Cheng Z, Lopez-Vicente M, Ma X, et al. Solar photovoltaic panels significantly promote vegetation recovery by modifying the soil surface microhabitats in an arid sandy ecosystem. *Land Degrad Dev.* 2019;30:2177-86. Lovich JE, Ennen JR. *Wildlife Conservation and Solar Energy Development in the Desert Southwest.*

How do you manage vegetation under a solar array?

To date, the most common plans for vegetation management under solar arrays are mechanical control (mowing), grazing sheep, and pollinator habitat, or a combination of these three. In almost every scenario a mixture of different plant species will provide more desirable outcomes than a monoculture.

Do you have a plan for solar farm vegetation management?

Solar farms are becoming an increasingly popular way to generate renewable energy, with many benefits for the environment and local communities. However, to ensure that these installations are running at their maximum efficiency, it's essential to have a solid plan in place for solar farm vegetation management.

Do solar arrays need vegetation management?

All solar arrays require vegetation management to prevent vegetation from affecting the solar system. The plant species present will impact the frequency, ease, and cost of managing this vegetation. Characteristics of common plant species for permanent ground cover in the northeast can be found in Appendix A.



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