

# Why aren't photovoltaic panels installed along the railway

Can solar panels be placed between railway tracks?

Swiss startup Sun-Ways has developed a patented solution under which it directly rolls out solar modules between railway tracks like a carpet. The panels can be removed at any time for maintenance work. From pv magazine Germany Swiss startup Sun-Ways is currently developing PV systems that can be placed between railroad tracks.

Can a solar power plant be removed from a railway track?

Railway maintenance company Scheuchzer SA has developed a machine to install or remove the Sun-Ways panel modules. The "solar power plant" has been designed so that the panel modules can be temporarily removed while railway engineers perform track maintenance, and then put back down when work has been completed.

Can solar panels harvest energy from railroad tracks?

Despite many household and business rooftops rocking solar panels, and dedicated "farms" also soaking up the Sun's energy, there's still huge potential for harvesting much more. Sun-ways is looking to tap into the estimated 1-TWh annual energy potential from the 5,000-km of railroad tracks in Switzerland by laying removable PV panels between them.

Can a PV system be placed between railroad tracks?

From pv magazine Germany Swiss startup Sun-Ways is currently developing PV systems that can be placed between railroad tracks. It is working on a project that is scheduled to go online in May 2023. It consists of a mechanically detachable PV plant that will occupy a track section owned by Swiss railway operator Transports Publics Neuchâtel SA.

Can solar panels be installed between railroad lines?

The area between railroad lines is broad enough to accommodate standard-sized solar panels without impeding train passage, claims co-founder Sun-Ways, Baptiste Danichert. "This way, we [Switzerland] could produce some of the electricity we need," said Danichert. Large installations are difficult to construct due to a lack of available space.

How many solar panels does a new railway system use?

The project is being developed by Swiss startup Sun-ways, which plans to begin deploying the system next year, on a 100-m linear section of the 221 railway operated by transN, the public transport company of the canton of Neuchâtel. The pilot system will rely on 48 panels with each an output of 380 W and their combined capacity will be 18 kW.

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