

# Will the reflection of photovoltaic panels affect bats

Do solar panels affect bat species richness?

Bat species richness was greater along field boundaries compared with open fields, but there was no effect of solar PV panels on species richness. Policy implications: Ground-mounted solar photovoltaic developments have a significant negative effect on bat activity, and should be considered in appropriate planning legislation and policy.

Do solar photovoltaic sites reduce bat activity?

Paper: 'Renewable energies and biodiversity: impact of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic sites on bat activity' by Lizy Tinsley et al in Journal of Applied Ecology. The activity level of six bat species was significantly reduced at solar farm sites, researchers have observed.

Do solar PV developments attract or repel birds or bats?

The potential for solar developments to attract or repel birds or bats should be considered, alongside the potential for negative interactions to occur between these taxa and solar farms. Future research should focus on examining the potential of solar PV developments to support biodiversity.

Do ground-mounted solar PV developments affect bats?

Renewable energy is growing at a rapid pace globally but as yet there has been little research on the effects of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) developments on bats, many species of which are threatened or protected. We conducted a paired study at 19 ground-mounted solar PV developments in southwest England.

Do solar panels affect bat activity?

Six of the eight bat species or groups studied were less active in the fields with solar panels compared to the fields without them. Common pipistrelles, which made up almost half of all bat activity, showed a decrease of 40 percent at the edges of solar panel fields and 86 percent in their center.

Do solar panels reduce bat commuting?

Solar panels may also reflect a bats' echolocation calls, making insect detection more difficult. Reduced feeding success around the panels may result in fewer bats using the surrounding hedgerows for commuting, potentially explaining our findings.

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