The impact of solar power generation on land

Using the state of California (United States) as a model system, our study shows that the majority of utility-scale solar energy (USSE) installations are sited in natural environments, namely shrublands ...

Driven by subsidies, mandates and federal and state policies compelling the use of more renewable energy, solar energy facilities are now displacing farmland at an increasing rate.

Solar energy, which converts energy from the sun into thermal or electrical power, is rapidly expanding across America and the world. Solar energy can provide numerous benefits but, ...

USDA, Economic Research Service researchers recently studied how solar and wind development affects land cover near wind turbines and solar farms. They found that cropland or ...

Our study first quantitatively evaluated the effects of land-based solar power development on ecosystem functions in global terrestrial ecosystems. Increasing clean energy production and ...

As with any type of power plant, large solar power plants can affect the environment at or near their locations. Clearing land for a power plant may have long-term effects on the habitats of native plants ...

With estimates of 80,000 acres of land surface being converted to solar energy production in the Commonwealth by 2030, impacts on the current use of land have risen to the forefront of most ...

By quantifying the impacts of land transformation on an important ecosystem service (soil carbon losses), we seek to improve the methodology for land-related endpoint impacts of ...

With solar farms and wind turbines increasingly being built in rural areas, questions have emerged about the long-term consequences for agricultural land cover and productivity.

This trend has raised skepticism in rural communities, prompting questions about land value, environmental impacts, and the future of these properties once solar installations are ...

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