

Berkeley Lab's annual Scale Solar report presents trends Utility- in deployment, technology, capital expenditures (CapEx), operating expenses (OpEx), capacity factors, levelized cost of the solar energy (LCOE), power purchase agreement (PPA) prices, and wholesale market value among the fleet of -scale utility





This webinar presents highlights from the newly released " Utility-Scale Solar, 2024 Edition " report. This report presents analysis of empirical plant-level data from the U.S. fleet of ground-mounted photovoltaic (PV) and PV+battery plants with capacities exceeding 5 MWAC. While focused on key developments in 2023, this report also



Utility-Scale Solar, 2024 Edition. Purpose and Scope: Summarize public and private data on key trends in U.S. utility-scale solar sector. Focus on ground-mounted projects >5 MWAC. There are separate DOE-funded data collection efforts on distributed PV (e.g., trackingthesun.lbl.gov)



<image>

The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), a leading trade group for solar developers, defines a solar project as utility-scale if it generates greater than 1 megawatt (MW) of solar energy. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory uses a 5 MW threshold to qualify utility-scale solar projects.

We foresee utility-scale PV dominating electricity generation because of its favourable economies of scale, outweighing the savings in transmission costs brought by decentralized microgrid installations. In this article we distinguish between five classes of PV installations ??? from utility scale to off grid micro-installations.



Utility-Scale Solar, 2022 Edition. Purpose and Scope: Summarize publicly available data on key trends in U.S. utility-scale solar sector. Focus on ground-mounted projects >5 MWAC. There are separate DOE-funded data collection efforts on distributed PV. Focus on historical data, emphasizing the most-recent full calendar year. Data and Methods:





The world's top 27 utility-scale PV developers installed 48.6 GW of new solar capacity between the start of 2023 and the third quarter of 2024, according to analysis from Wiki-Solar. The figure

Utility Solar's Impact. Utility-scale solar arrays comprised about two-thirds (65%) of U.S. solar capacity in 2023. While the total is impressive, experts believe it could rise to 70% by 2030. Several states, including Texas, California, and Florida, have embraced renewable technology.



Now the new target for unsubsidized levelized cost of energy (LCOE) for utility-scale PV at the point of grid connection is \$0.03/kWh for 2025 and \$0.02/kWh for 2030. These targets are for areas of the country with average solar resource and could make solar the lowest-cost source of new electricity generation across most of the country.





The largest scale of solar projects is utility-scale solar (also known as solar power plants). Typically sized anywhere from 1 to 5 megawatts (MW), solar power plants can be massive projects, often spanning multiple acres of land. Utility-scale solar projects are usually ground-mounted arrays.

Utility-scale solar is the use of large solar power plants to produce electricity at a mass scale. There are two main types of utility-scale solar: solar PV ("solar panels"), the tech used in most solar power plants, and concentrated solar power.



Explaining utility-scale solar power. One sun, two approaches. There are two primary types of solar energy technologies in use today: solar photovoltaic (PV) and concentrating solar thermal power (CSP). Each has its own distinct use and application. The answers to all your utility-scale solar power questions. Frequently asked questions.



Utility-Scale Solar. Berkeley Lab's "Utility-Scale Solar, 2024 Edition" presents analysis of empirical plant-level data from the U.S. fleet of ground-mounted photovoltaic (PV), PV+battery, and concentrating solar-thermal power (CSP) plants with capacities exceeding 5 MW AC (PV plants of 5 MW AC or less, including residential rooftop

Utility-scale (27%) and distributed (22%) solar accounted for a combined 49% of all capacity added to U.S. grids in 2022 (ahead of wind's 22%). Solar has contributed >40% of all new capacity for the past 2 years, >30% in 6 of the last 7 years, and >20% in each of the last 10 years.



Wood Mackenzie and SEIA report that the utility-scale sector added 14 GWDC or 73% of all new solar capacity of 2020. It was the year with the greatest utility-scale solar capacity expansion in the United States so far, representing a year-over-year growth of 65%.



<image><image><image>

While residential solar is most commonly found on rooftops, utility-scale and other large-scale solar projects have much more flexibility for siting. As the United States works toward decarbonizing the electricity system by 2035, solar capacity will need to reach one terawatt (TW), which will require more diversity of siting configurations.



Schneider Electric Utility Scale services is now ISO 9001:2015 Certified. We offer services in over 110 countries providing 6,000 Solar experts in all regions / time zones. From spare parts replacement to long-term power plant services, our experts provide continuous high-level support in order to ensure the optimum performance of your PV plants.



? The development cycle of a utility-scale solar project demands precise orchestration across multiple phases and stakeholders. From initial site acquisition through interconnection studies, Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) negotiations, and ultimately construction, each stage builds upon the last in a carefully managed sequence that typically spans three to four years.

SOLAR°



This comprehensive course covers the fundamentals of utility-scale solar engineering, focusing on projects up to 30-40MWac with interconnection voltages between 12.47-35kV. The course is structured in two main sections: a free introductory section and an advanced engineering section. A basic understanding of electrical systems is required.



At the very bottom of the list is North Dakota, which has no utility-scale solar. But that could soon change, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association, which projects the state will install close to 90 megawatts of utility-scale solar in 2027.. New Hampshire is second to last, with just 0. 05 percent utility-scale solar, and Kansas is third from the bottom at 0. 2 percent.



photovoltaic (PV) power plants are growing rapidly for both utility-scale and distributed power generation applications. Reductions in costs driven by technological advances, economies of scale in manufacturing, and innovations in financing have brought solar power within reach of grid parity in an increasing number of markets.





? PV Tech has been running PV ModuleTech Conferences since 2017. PV ModuleTech USA, on 17-18 June 2025, will be our fourth PV ModuleITech conference dedicated to the U.S. utility scale solar sector.



Utility-scale solar has been generating reliable, clean electricity with a stable fuel price for decades. Developing utility-scale solar power is one of the fastest ways to reduce carbon emissions and put the U.S. on a path to a clean energy future.