

What counts as a solar power project



Overview

Grid-scale solar developments (GSSD) (also called utility-scale solar) are often called "solar arrays. " They normally consist of about one hundred to several thousand acres of ground-mounted solar panels that produce electricity for transmission into the power grid for use off-site. On average, a 1 MW solar installation in California produces enough electricity each year to power . The solar project development process involves a detailed, multi-phase approach, including site selection, regulatory approvals, system design, financing, construction, testing, and ongoing maintenance to bring solar energy projects from concept to long-term operation. Compared to residential or commercial rooftop solar installations, utility scale projects are ground-mounted systems that range in size from 5 megawatts (MW) to over 1 . It allows homeowners, installers, manufacturers, and researchers to easily develop estimates of the performance of hypothetical PV installations. Department of Energy's Solar Energy Technologies Office offers resources for state and local government officials A Solar Power Purchase .

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Local Renewable Energy: Solar

A Solar Power Purchase Agreement (SPPA) is a financial arrangement in which a third-party developer owns, operates, and maintains a photovoltaic (PV) system, and a customer hosts the

Solar Project Management Explained: A Complete Guide

Solar energy projects vary greatly in size and scope. They can range from a homeowner wanting to reduce their energy bills with rooftop solar panels to utility-scale solar farms covering



The Solar Project Development Process: A Comprehensive Guide

The solar project development process involves a detailed, multi-phase approach, including site selection, regulatory approvals, system design, financing, construction, testing, and

Solar Fact Sheet October 2025

On average, a 1 MW solar installation in California produces enough electricity each year to power 200 to 300 homes, and requires roughly 2 to 8 acres of land depending on panel efficiency, site layout,



Homeowner's Guide to Solar

The amount of money you can save with solar



Grid-Scale Solar "Basics"

Grid-scale solar developments (GSSD) (also called utility-scale solar) are often called "solar arrays." They normally consist of about one hundred to several thousand acres of ground

depends upon how much electricity you consume, the size of your solar energy system, if you choose to buy or lease your system, and how much power it



Project Sunroof

Search for a city, state, or zip code to see solar potential and impact across entire geographic areas. We currently have solar data for portions of 50 states and Washington DC.

Solar Project Development

Solar project development is the process of planning, designing, financing, constructing, and operating solar energy systems. These systems harness the power of the sun to generate electricity, providing



How Is the Size of a Solar Farm Defined?

Solar developers define the size of a solar farm in terms of its capacity-how much energy the entire farm can produce at one time. This is measured in watts, just like a lightbulb in your home.

Utility-Scale Solar Energy: A Complete Guide

The threshold for a solar project to be considered

utility scale is generally accepted to be around 5 MW, which can power around 1,000 homes. Utility scale solar provides economies of scale,



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