

# **Small-scale solar energy in the wild**





## Overview

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How can solar energy help wildlife?

By continuing to pursue innovative ways to improve solar farms and other renewable energy sites, we can further lessen the impacts we have on wildlife habitats and help animals thrive. We'll continue to work with partners and solar developers across the state to advance climate solutions that benefit both wildlife and people.

How can solar energy help native wildlife communities?

On-site plant and animal habitat. Solar energy facilities can implement strategies to manage on-site habitat for the benefit of native wildlife communities (e.g., seeding with native plants). Research areas of interest include:

How to reduce wildlife impacts of solar development?

Small and medium animals can access the site with only 4-6 inches of clearance at the bottom of fencing. Including openings in fences and promoting species mobility through habitat corridors was a commonly mentioned way of reducing the wildlife impacts of solar development.

Do non-traditional solar projects face wildlife challenges?

Respondents pointed out that facilities developed using non-traditional strategies still face a lot of the same wildlife challenges faced by traditional PV development (further detailed in Question 1.1, Question 4.2, and Appendix A), including concerns about collisions with solar energy infrastructure.

What are solar-wildlife challenges?

Accompanying this rapid growth of utility-scale solar facilities (also referred to as large-scale solar facilities) within the landscape are solar-wildlife challenges related to increased land conversion into solar facilities.



## Do solar panels pose a risk to wildlife?

Collisions with supporting infrastructure. The various structures needed to operate a solar energy facility (e.g., PV panels, overhead transmission lines, CSP towers) have the potential to pose a collision risk to wildlife, which may lead to injuries or fatalities. Research areas of interest include:



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[How to make small-scale solar energy .  
NenPower](#)

To create small-scale solar energy, it is essential to follow several steps: 1. Assess your energy needs, 2. Choose the appropriate solar ...

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### [Solar Impacts on Wildlife and Ecosystems](#)

On September 13, 2021, the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) issued a Request for Information (RFI), Solar Impacts on Wildlife and Ecosystems, for ...

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### [Helping Birds and Floating Solar Energy Coexist](#)

Commonly installed over artificial water bodies, from irrigation ponds and reservoirs to wastewater treatment plants, floating solar projects can maximize space for ...

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### [Thermodynamic assessment of a small-scale solar chimney](#)

The solar chimney uses solar energy to heat the air and generate an updraft airflow, which can be used for electricity generation or agricultural drying. Most models from the literature predict the ...



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### **Solar Energy FAQ**

Existing utility scale solar in South Dakota is a 1 MW facility near Pierre, the 80 MW Fall River Solar Project near Oelrichs, and the 128 MW Wild Springs Solar Project near New Underwood.

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### [Project Overview -- Wild Energy , Energy Solutions for Nature ...](#)

Small ponds and lakes play an important role in global water and nutrient cycles. We are leading the first field-based, observational investigation of floating solar panel installations (FPVs) ...

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### **Wildlife-Friendly Solar Energy**

To explore options for minimizing these impacts, Valley Electric Association (VEA) and US Fish and Wildlife Service worked together to construct a wildlife ...

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### [How Our Solar Energy Research Aims To Support ...](#)

Solar energy developments may impact wildlife movement. We are studying these impacts and how solar energy can mitigate them to preserve ...

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### [Increased bird diversity around small-scale solar energy plants in](#)

The increasing demand for energy, coupled with the imperative to curtail the combustion of natural raw materials and mitigate global warming, necessitates the exploitation ...

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### [USGS research on the effects of renewable energy on ...](#)

Renewable energy development, such as solar and wind energy, is growing in the United States and is expected to continue expanding for the ...

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### **Making Solar Wildlife-Friendly**

By continuing to pursue innovative ways to improve solar farms and other renewable energy sites, we can further lessen the impacts we have on wildlife habitats and help animals ...

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### [Solar Energy and Wildlife: Coexisting with Nature](#)

Wildlife-friendly practices in the design of solar farms include the use of native plants and the creation of corridors for animal movement. Individual actions, such as ...

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### [Wildlife + Solar Energy -- Wildlands Network](#)

Utility-scale solar energy (USSE), in particular, could affect landscape-scale habitat connectivity by directly altering habitat with solar panels or restricting ...

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### [Solar Energy Interactions with Wildlife and Their Habitats](#)

The Renewable Energy Wildlife Institute (REWI) will focus primarily on the effects of utility-scale PV solar energy facilities (henceforth, PV facilities or PV solar) on natural resources within this ...

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### [The Impact Of Solar Energy On Wildlife And Biodiversity](#)

Solar energy is a clean, renewable source of energy that has a significantly lower environmental impact than traditional forms of energy, such as coal and oil. ...

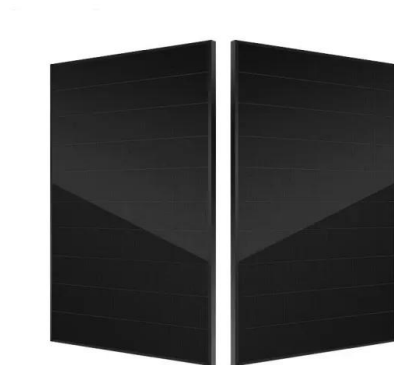
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### [The Rise of Solar Power in the Philippines: ...](#)

The Philippines, an archipelagic nation with wet and dry seasons, is increasingly harnessing solar energy to meet its growing power needs. As the ...

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### [An Overview of Micro-Renewables and Community ...](#)

As billions of people lack electricity worldwide, micro-renewables like small turbines and rooftop solar are powering a silent revolution.

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### [Short-Term Energy Outlook: Small-Scale Solar Forecasts](#)

We define small-scale solar PV systems as smaller than 1 megawatt (MW)<sup>1</sup> in size, typically installed on the rooftops of residences or businesses. Small-scale solar PV systems also ...

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### [USGS research on the effects of renewable energy on wildlife](#)

Renewable energy development, such as solar and wind energy, is growing in the United States and is expected to continue expanding for the foreseeable future. However, ...

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### [How Our Solar Energy Research Aims To Support Wildlife](#)

Solar energy developments may impact wildlife movement. We are studying these impacts and how solar energy can mitigate them to preserve wildlife connectivity.

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### [Guide to Building a Small Solar Farm](#)

Community solar farms produce around 5MW of energy on small-scale farms. These farms enable small enterprises and organizations to earn a credit on ...

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### **Wildlife-Friendly Solar Energy**

To explore options for minimizing these impacts, Valley Electric Association (VEA) and US Fish and Wildlife Service worked together to construct a wildlife-friendly solar power generation ...

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### **Wildlife and Solar Power**

Potential benefits and impacts to wildlife and their habitats are a primary consideration during planning and development of util-ity-scale photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facilities.

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### [Increased bird diversity around small-scale solar energy plants in](#)

Small PV farms in Poland show higher avifauna diversity compared to control areas. Features of PV farms like safe breeding areas and fences support bird presence.

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### [Helping Birds and Floating Solar Energy Coexist](#)

Commonly installed over artificial water bodies, from irrigation ponds and reservoirs to wastewater treatment plants, floating solar projects ...

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