



# Photovoltaic step board design scheme

Do distributed photovoltaic systems contribute to the power balance?

Tom Key, Electric Power Research Institute. Distributed photovoltaic (PV) systems currently make an insignificant contribution to the power balance on all but a few utility distribution systems.

How does a photovoltaic system work?

Photovoltaic (PV) systems (or PV systems) convert sunlight into electricity using semiconductor materials. A photovoltaic system does not need bright sunlight in order to operate. It can also generate electricity on cloudy and rainy days from reflected sunlight. PV systems can be designed as Stand-alone or grid-connected systems.

What is building integrated photovoltaic (BIPV)?

Building Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV) is an application where solar PV modules are integrated into the building structures.

Do energy storage subsystems integrate with distributed PV?

Energy storage subsystems need to be identified that can integrate with distributed PV to enable intentional islanding or other ancillary services. Intentional islanding is used for backup power in the event of a grid power outage, and may be applied to customer-sited UPS applications or to larger microgrid applications.

How do you calculate the number of photovoltaic modules?

Multiplying the number of modules required per string (C10) by the number of strings in parallel (C11) determines the number of modules to be purchased. The rated module output in watts as stated by the manufacturer. Photovoltaic modules are usually priced in terms of the rated module output (\$/watt).

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