Solar power generation at the airport

Is solar power the next big thing in airport infrastructure?

As energy demand continues to grow around the world,some airport operators have turned their attention skyward,and not to view the aircraft leaving and arriving. Andrew Tunnicliffe takes a look at how solar power is fast becoming the next big thing in airport infrastructure. T he aviation industry has long had its critics.

Do airports need to measure the impact of solar energy projects?

The policy requires airports to measure the visual impact of such projects on pilots and air traffic control personnel. The policy applies to proposed solar energy systems at federally obligated airports with control towers.

Why do airports use solar energy onsite?

The production of solar power energy onsite at an airport alleviates the influence of global energy markets. This is especially important for the air travel industry as airline profits are significantly influenced by jet fuel costs. An increase in ground-based energy costs may result in airports charging higher aircraft landing fees.

Do airports need a solar energy system?

As such, the agency encourages an airport to conduct sufficient analysis before installing a solar energy system. The FAA is also withdrawing the recommended tool for measuring the ocular impact of potential glint and glare effects on pilots and air traffic controllers. This final policy supersedes the interim policy published in 2013.

What energy sources are available for airports?

There are several energy technologies that are currently being developed as energy sources for airports, including solar photovoltaic, concentrating solar power, wind power, oil and natural gas extraction, steam-generated power production and electricity transmission (Barrett et al., 2014).

Should airports invest in solar energy?

Airport solar energy is more likely to appear in the service area of investor-owned utilities,which have greater resources and expertise to invest in renewable energy. "Accessing clean,reliable,and affordable energy is integral to resilient,sustainable,and equitable futures," said Kim.

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