



# Solar power generation construction scale

What percentage of solar power is generated by utility-scale solar?

Utility-scale solar contributed 65% of cumulative solar capacity (and 70% of solar generation) in 2021; this share is projected to rise above 70% by 2025 and 75% by 2030. Note: This graph follows Wood Mackenzie/SEIA split between distributed and utility-scale solar, rather than our 5 MWAC threshold.

How many MW is a solar project?

Data includes solar project phases with capacity of 20 megawatts (MW) or more and wind project phases with a capacity of 10 MW or more. Capacity under construction for China and Europe updated in June 2024, while other regions accurate to December 2023. What happened in the past year?

What is a utility-scale solar farm?

Greater than 1 MW is considered utility-scale as opposed to smaller commercial or residential solar generation facilities. Utility-scale solar farm development typically requires 2.5 - 5 acres of land per MW of capacity.

How much does a solar PV system cost?

Capital and environmental compliance. According to 2017 data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, annual capacity-weighted construction costs for utility-scale solar PV systems in the United States has declined from \$3,700/kW in 2013 to \$2,343 in 2017 (EIA, 2018). Soft costs must be a significant portion of the total cost. This paper will discuss in further detail.

What is the global solar power tracker?

The Global Solar Power Tracker is a worldwide dataset of utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) and solar thermal facilities. It covers all operating solar farm phases with capacities of 1 megawatt (MW) or more and all announced, pre-construction, construction, and shelved projects with capacities greater than 20 MW.

How much solar energy does a new project use?

The median solar resource (measured in long-term global horizontal irradiance--GHI) at new project sites has declined since development began expanding to less-sunny states post-2013, and reached a new record low of just 4.45 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/day in 2021.

The range of the Base Year estimates illustrate the effect of locating a utility-scale PV plant in places with lower or higher solar irradiance. The ATB provides the average capacity factor for 10 resource categories in the United States, ...

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