

Is it okay to build photovoltaic panels on irrigation canals



Overview

Solar power over canals could reduce evaporative losses from the canals, according to a 2021 feasibility study in Nature Sustainability by Brandi McKuin, of the University of California, Merced, and colleagues. Two projects in the western US are testing the feasibility of installing solar farms over sun-drenched irrigation canals. shade a Turlock Irrigation District canal in Stanislaus County, California. With devastating heat, record-breaking wildfire, looming. Cover as much of California's roughly 4,000 miles of irrigation canals with solar canopies as possible. With this one move, solar canals fight two battles simultaneously—generating renewable energy and conserving water. They produce electricity, use less land, and cut water loss by shading the water.

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[Solar Canals: Benefits, Costs & Future](#)

Solar canals put panels over irrigation canals to generate power and cut evaporation. This guide explains benefits, costs, challenges, and real pilots. Solar canals are canals covered by solar panels. ...

[Solar panels over canals could provide benefits beyond ...](#)

Two projects in the western US are testing the feasibility of installing solar farms over sun-drenched irrigation canals.



[Evaluating the viability of installing photovoltaic panels on](#)

Thus, the implementation of PV panels on irrigation canals is highly recommended for both energy production and water conservation. This approach optimizes land use, supports sustainable ...

[Water Saving Solar Panels, Coming Soon To A Canal Near You](#)

Solar panels on canals can save water, prevent toxic algae blooms, conserve land, and generate zero emission electricity, too.



[Energy and water co-benefits from covering canals with solar panels](#)

With hydrologic and techno-economic simulations of solar panels covering California's canal network, this study shows the advantages of covering canals with solar panels.



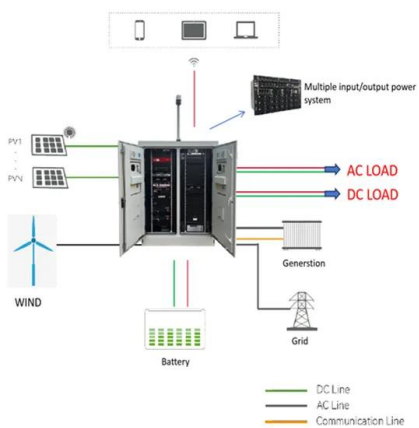
[US launches first solar panels over canals pilot project](#)

California has taken a groundbreaking step in renewable energy by launching the first pilot project in the United States that features solar panels installed over irrigation canals.



[Solar panels on water canals seem like a no-brainer. So why aren't ...](#)

Solar on canals has long been discussed as a two-for-one solution in California, where affordable land for energy development is as scarce as water. But the grand idea was still a hypothetical.



[Solar-panel-covered canals have their day in the sun in California](#)

Their analysis found that putting solar panels over the 4,000 miles of California's open canals could save up to 63 billion gallons of water annually -- enough to meet the needs of 2 million ...



[Solar Canals: America Boldly Tackling Water, Energy Crises](#)

The U.S. has over 80,000 miles of irrigation canals, and while not all are suitable for solar panel installation, even converting a fraction of them could yield massive results.

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