

Is California oversupply of solar power causing problems?

A new analysis by Los Angeles Times staff writer Melody Petersen found major problems in the state's current solar economy. Oversupply of solar power is causing California's operators to regularly halt production or even pay electricity traders to take power off their hands. Sometimes, other states snag the extra energy for cheap.

How much solar power does California have?

California had almost 31,800 megawatts of solar power as of the first quarter 2021, generating about 24 percent of the state's electricity according to the Solar Energy Industries Association. California has the largest solar market in the United States.

What if California didn't pay utilities for solar energy?

The waste would have been even larger if California had not paid utilities in other states to take the excess solar energy, documents from the state's grid operator show. That means green energy paid for by California electricity customers is sent away, lowering bills for residents of other states.

Why is California reducing solar power production?

The curtailment has two causes, according to the United States Energy Information Administration. In some cases, power lines in the state don't have capacity to take on and deliver energy; in others, generation exceeds customer demand. Either way, California's grid operator tells solar producers to cut production using price drops or direct orders.

Why are California's solar power curtailments increasing?

California's solar power curtailments have been increasing due to the growth in solar power to meet the state's aggressive clean energy goals. As of the first quarter 2021, California had more than 31,800 megawatts of solar, generating almost 24 percent of the state's electricity according to the Solar Energy Industries Association.

Should California stop producing solar energy?

California is now producing so much solar energy that the state must increasingly ask solar farms to stop producing to prevent overloading the electric grid. In the last 12 months, power that would have fueled 518,000 California homes for a year has been curtailed or thrown away.

California gets over a quarter of its electricity from solar, and these days, generates more power than they can use on sunny days. In fact, lately their electricity prices ...

Net metering requires utility companies to pay customers for the excess energy those solar arrays send back to the grid. It is the thing that drove sales of rooftop solar starting more than a ...

The California Public Utilities Commission today overhauled the state's rooftop solar regulations, reducing payments to homeowners for excess power but providing nearly a billion dollars in incentives to encourage more ...

The real game changer would be if, in the future, the widespread use of batteries and other forms of storage could save any excess solar power generated during the day -- ...

California, which leads the nation in solar power energy, is among those states to have too much leftover energy that is now being wasted. In 2022, 2.4 million megawatt-hours ...

Solar nonprofit in California disagrees with changes Dave Rosenfeld, director of the Solar Rights Alliance, a nonprofit advocating for accessible solar energy, considers the CPUC's decision ...

The state of California has set an ambitious goal of getting all of its energy from clean sources by 2045. As the Times investigation makes clear, there are several factors at play that could make that challenging -- including ...

In the last 12 months, California's solar farms have curtailed production of more than 3 million megawatt hours of solar energy, either on ...

As California works toward its ambitious clean energy vision, an almost counterintuitive challenge has emerged: The state is, at times, generating more solar energy than it can handle. It's to ...

California's curtailments have been increasing every year, driven by growth in solar power to meet the state's aggressive clean energy goals. California had more than 31,800 megawatts of solar as of the end of the first ...

The short answer is--yes, many utility companies do pay for excess solar energy. However, the details vary depending on where you live and which utility company serves your area. How much you can earn by selling ...

Some days more than half of California's available solar power goes to waste, according to research from the California Institute for Energy and Environment. "In the last 12 ...

California has revisited its Net Energy Metering (NEM) program that contributes to our state's 100% clean energy goal. As a result, the California Public Utilities Commission has ...

California set two renewable energy records last week: the most solar power ever flowing on the state's main electric grid, and the most solar power ever taken offline because it wasn't needed.

California's surplus solar energy challenge underscores the need for strategic planning and infrastructure investment to utilize renewable energy fully. As the state continues ...

"The solar industry and clean energy supporters are still reviewing the CPUC's proposed decision, but based on an initial analysis, it would cut the average export rate in California from \$0.30 per kilowatt to \$0.08 per kilowatt ...

How much can I earn from selling solar energy back to the power company in California? The earnings from selling surplus solar energy depend on your utility company's ...

The increasing oversupply of solar power has created a situation where energy traders can buy the excess at prices so low they become negative, said energy consultant ...

Large batteries and other energy storage technologies could store the excess solar energy California is producing during the day. But until prices come down, storage remains costly. Denholm says according to his analysis, ...

A controversial proposal is being floated in Sacramento that would, once again, change the rate owners of rooftop solar are compensated for the excess energy they produce.

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