

THE IMPACTS OF SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS ON DESERT ENVIRONMENTS

Nevada has abundant solar resources that have the potential to meet our energy needs and stimulate economic development.

This study aims to better understand the impacts of solar energy projects on desert environments.

Results of the study will help to minimize the environmental impacts of construction, operation and decommission of solar facilities in desert environments.



OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES



>> Weighing lysimeter (top) and environmental monitoring system (right), Boulder City, NV.

RESEARCH TOPICS

1. Influence of solar energy facilities on the population of dynamics of select organisms
2. Effects of microclimate change on desert plant communities at solar energy facilities
3. Impact of solar arrays on the water balance of desert soils
4. Soil crust degradation and mitigation
5. Impact of solar facilities on landscape patterns studied using remotely sensed data
6. Landscape restoration ecology in solar energy development

RESULTS OR ANTICIPATED RESULTS

A better understanding how solar developments interact with their desert environment.

Concepts, strategies and methods to minimize the impact of solar developments on their desert environments.

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