

What are Canadian grid-connected solar PV systems?

Most Canadian grid-connected solar PV systems are designed with the modest goal of reducing grid electricity use to some extent. Some projects have the more ambitious goal of achieving Net-Zero Energy (NZ) or Net-Zero Electricity performance using grid-connected solar PV.

Are solar panels a wetland impact?

In the past, the posts/pilings that are used to install solar arrays have not been considered a wetland impact that would require compensatory mitigation under the WCA. The reality is that solar arrays bring wetlands into non-aquatic use and may, or may not, negatively impact the wetland's quality or function.

Should solar panels be installed on posts/pilings in wetlands?

To help local governments evaluate the potential impacts to a wetland's function and value, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) issued guidance that provides a suggested approach for evaluating projects when they involve the installation of solar panels on posts/pilings in wetlands.

Do solar arrays affect wetlands?

The reality is that solar arrays bring wetlands into non-aquatic use and may, or may not, negatively impact the wetland's quality or function. Historically, solar arrays have been sited within or near farmed wetlands (wetlands that are plowed).

Should solar arrays be located near wetlands?

Historically, solar arrays have been sited within or near farmed wetlands (wetlands that are plowed). If solar developers restore the disturbed wetlands following construction, such as with native plant species, the function and value may actually improve, despite the shading from the solar arrays.

How does WSB assess wetlands?

WSB's experienced Natural Resources staff are available to assess wetlands to determine the general quality and function/value they provide to the ecological setting and society. The regulatory review and technical assessment will determine if the project wetland impacts require replacement.

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As the solar energy industry grows in Alberta, it is important to understand its potential impact on these critical ecosystems and their functions. The current body of knowledge on the impact of ...



# Canadian Wetland Photovoltaic Solar System

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