

How many ground-mounted PV power stations are there in China?

According to our dataset, China has a total of 2467.7 km² ground-mounted PV power stations in 2020. The top three largest provinces refer to Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia and Qinghai, whose PV area ratio are 14.92%, 12.49% and 11.26%, respectively, with a total of nearly 40% of all the PV power stations of China.

What land is used for PV power stations in China?

Land used for PV power stations were mainly converted from Gobi desert, sandy land, sparse and moderate grassland. The focus of China's PV industry is shifting from the northwest to the south and east. Many leading countries are boosting renewables, especially solar energy, as a major way to mitigate future energy crises and climate change.

Where are PV power plants located in China?

Eventually, we established a map of PV power plants in China by 2020, covering a total area of 2917 km². We found that most PV power plants were situated on cropland, followed by barren land and grassland, based on the derived national PV map. In addition, the installation of PV power plants has generally decreased the vegetation cover.

Can machine learning map PV power plants across China?

This study developed a workflow, combining machine learning and visual interpretation methods with big satellite data, to map PV power plants across China. We applied a pixel-based random forest (RF) model to classify the PV power plants from composite images in 2020 with a 30 m spatial resolution on the Google Earth Engine (GEE).

Does China need a comprehensive map of PV power plants?

With the world's highest cumulative and fastest built PV capacity, China needs to assess the environmental and social impacts of these established PV power plants. However, a comprehensive map regarding the PV power plants' locations and extent remains scarce on the country scale.

Do PV power plants reduce vegetation in China?

The PV power plants in China are more likely to be installed in suitable natural conditions but with low power demand or in areas with high local energy demand. We also found that installing PV power plants will generally decrease the vegetation. Our dataset is conducive to policy management and environmental assessment.

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of PV panels at high altitudes. The studies in [15,16] suggest the coldest geographical locations on the earth to have the best solar power genera-tion potential when using PV panels, since ...

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