

Will Pakistan's solar power surge disrupt the grid?

Pakistan has grown its solar energy capacity by an astounding amount in a remarkably short space of time. The shock surge has given residents the power to survive blackouts, but it threatens to disrupt the grid.

Is the solar boom too disruptive?

"It's also causing problems for balancing the grid more generally," he added, as operators are struggling to predict how much energy they will need to provide when. If the government perceives the consumer-led solar boom as too disruptive, it could cut the surge short, Jones warned.

Why is solar power a problem?

As increasing numbers of people meet their own energy needs during the day with solar power, the sudden drop in demand is causing problems for operators of the main national electricity grid. "The way those power plants were planned and funded was to run a minimum amount of hours," said Jones.

Is solar power over?

The most remarkable is that it is nowhere near over. Read more in our series on solar energy: To call solar power's rise exponential is not hyperbole, but a statement of fact. Installed solar capacity doubles roughly every three years, and so grows ten-fold each decade. Such sustained growth is seldom seen in anything that matters.

Can solar power be produced on a cloudy day?

Solar power generation can be significantly affected by cloud cover. On a cloudy day, the energy produced by solar panels drops to 10% to 25% of its output on a sunny day. The North American power transmission grid is divided into six major regions and more than 150 local and regional subgrids.

Are solar panels the future of electricity?

Panels now occupy an area around half that of Wales, and this year they will provide the world with about 6% of its electricity--which is almost three times as much electrical energy as America consumed back in 1954. Yet this historic growth is only the second-most-remarkable thing about the rise of solar power.

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