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Solar module price adjustment mechanism





Overview

How do market-stimulating policies affect the cost of PV modules?

Market-stimulating policies have played a central role in driving down the costs of PV modules, with private R&D, economies of scale, and learning-by-doing together contributing an estimated 60% of the cost decline in PV modules between 1980 and 2012.

How can R&D help reduce PV module cost?

R&D, both public and private, was a key driver of module cost reduction historically and can be valuable going forward in improving module efficiency and reducing materials use. Improvements to module efficiency in particular would help cut the per-watt cost of all cost components of PV modules (as well as PV systems).

How is module cost reduced?

The reduction in module cost below the 2012 value is shown for each one-at-a-time variable change. Most variables are adjusted up or down by 25%, in a direction that reduces cost. Yield was changed from 95% to 100%. Plant size is increased by a factor of 3 (dark blue) and a factor of 10 (light blue).

Should PV module efficiency be improved?

Improvements to module efficiency in particular would help cut the per-watt cost of all cost components of PV modules (as well as PV systems). Variables that might face limitations in the short term are manufacturing yield, which is already close to 100%, and wafer area, which is constrained by yield and efficiency considerations.



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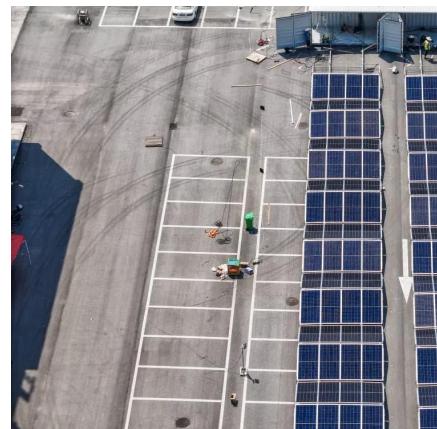
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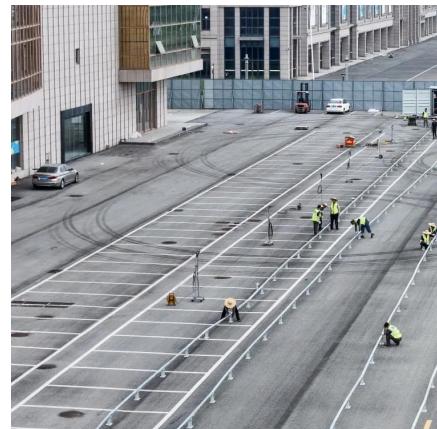
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