

ContainerPower Energy Solutions

Solar communication base station wind and solar complementary but with network



Overview

Can a solar-wind system meet future energy demands?

Accelerating energy transition towards renewables is central to net-zero emissions. However, building a global power system dominated by solar and wind energy presents immense challenges. Here, we demonstrate the potential of a globally interconnected solar-wind system to meet future electricity demands.

Are solar and wind resources interconnected?

Theoretically, the potential of solar and wind resources on Earth vastly surpasses human demand 33, 34. In our pursuit of a globally interconnected solar-wind system, we have focused solely on the potentials that are exploitable, accessible, and interconnectable (see “Methods”).

How does interconnectivity affect solar-wind development?

As the degree of interconnectivity increases, solar-wind development gradually shifts towards regions with distinct resource advantages, such as the midwestern United States for superior solar resources, and coastal or high-altitude areas for high wind energy potential (Fig. 2a, b).

What is a high-resolution model for interconnected power systems?

Brinkerink et al. 23 developed a high-resolution model to simulate globally interconnected power systems, providing initial proof-of-concept results that showcase the viability and additional benefits of integrating European and North American power grids.

Can global grid interconnection accelerate solar-wind transition?

Global grid interconnection represents a compelling pathway to accelerate this transition, particularly given the uneven geographic distribution of solar-wind potential (Fig. 1a).

Where do grid-boxes contain solar and wind resources?

In densely populated regions such as western Europe, India, eastern China, and western United States, most grid-boxes contain solar and wind resources apt for interconnection (Supplementary Fig. S1). Nevertheless, these regions exhibit modest power generation potential, typically not exceeding 1.0 TWh/year (Fig. 1a).

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