

# Update of environmental impacts and energy payback times of photovoltaics

What are the environmental impacts of PV systems?

The environmental impact of PV systems has improved markedly compared to 2015 values, particularly in non-renewable energy payback time. Increased panel efficiency, reducing life cycle environmental impacts. Decreased kerf loss and reduced poly-Si demand, lowering overall impacts.

What is the life cycle environmental performance of photovoltaic (PV) technologies?

Emissions are normalized for Southern European average insolation of 1,700 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/year, performance ratio of 0.8, and lifetime of 30 year. This chapter gives an overview of the life cycle environmental performance of photovoltaic (PV) technologies.

Why are UPV solar payback time estimates so uncertain?

The combination of these two challenges can cause large uncertainty in the payback time estimates. For example, in EPBT calculations, the average annual primary energy displaced by a UPV solar plant is calculated as a product of grid efficiency and energy replaced for the respective years.

Do PV technologies have a low environmental impact?

Recent LCA studies show that PV technologies have very low environmental impacts compared to those of conventional electricity generation [16,32]. However, a broad review of the literature reveals several PV LCA studies with widely differing estimates.

What is the environmental life cycle assessment of PV systems?

Environmental Life Cycle Assessment of Electricity from PV Systems This fact sheet provides an overview of the environmental life cycle assessment (LCA) of photovoltaic (PV) systems. It outlines the stages from manufacturing to end-of-life management, focusing on an average residential PV system.

What are the results of PV life cycle analysis?

This chapter summarizes the results of PV life cycle analyses using as the main indicators energy payback times (EPBTs), greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and toxic emissions, based on actual data from the present-day commercial production of sc-Si, mc-Si, CdTe, and CIGS photovoltaic systems.

The non-renewable primary energy demand amounts to 10,810 kWh oil-eq/kW<sub>p</sub>, which equals an energy payback time of 2.8 years. Environmental hotspots in the life cycle of the installation were found to be the production of the PV panels, due to the wafer production, and the mounting system, dominated by the production processes of the aluminium.

The energy payback time (EPBT) of photovoltaic materials when recycled is analyzed. In particular we are interested in under what conditions recycling yields energy payback improvements equivalent to efficiency. ...

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Previous literature has widely used energy and CO<sub>2</sub> payback to quantify the environmental impacts of energy systems [1], [2 ...

Photovoltaic Environmental Research Center, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY, USA ... life cycle inventory (LCI); life cycle impact assessment (LCIA); and interpretation. The life cycle Cumulative Energy Demand (CED) of a PV system is the sum total of the primary energy harvested from the geo-biosphere in order to supply the direct ...

Energy payback time (EPBT) is a basic metric of this performance: The lower the EPBT, that is the time it takes for a PV system to generate energy equal to the amount used in its production, the lower will be the emissions to the environment because emissions mainly occur from using fossil fuel-based energy in producing materials, solar cells ...

2019. The rapid global uptake of solar photovoltaics promises the hope of affordable low-carbon electricity. Most production so far and for the foreseeable future has been of modules based on silicon wafer cells and, while there are further R&D outcomes still to be fully transferred to the silicon cell industry, the next major technology change is likely to be the addition of a thin-film ...

A review of photovoltaic module technologies for increased performance in tropical climate. Osarumen O. Ogbomo, ... P.O. Olagbegi, in Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, 2017 2.4.1 Energy payback time (EPBT). Energy payback time (EPBT) of a PV cell is a measure of the performance of the technology/system. The EPBT quantifies how long it takes the system to ...

Life cycle assessments and external cost estimates of photovoltaics have been often based on old data that do not reflect the extensive technological progress made over the past decade. Our assessment uses current (2004-early 2005) manufacturing data, from twelve European and US photovoltaic companies, and establishes the Energy Payback Times ...

Guidance is given for the definition of the energy payback time (EPBT), the non-renewable energy payback time (NREPB), and the environmental impact mitigation potentials (IMP). The indicator energy return on investment (EROI) is described in a separate IEA report (Raugei et al. 2015).

Given photovoltaics" (PVs) constant improvements in terms of material usage and energy efficiency, this paper provides a timely update on their life-cycle energy and environmental performance. Single-crystalline Si (sc-Si), multi-crystalline Si (mc-Si), cadmium telluride (CdTe) and copper indium gallium diselenide (CIGS) systems are analysed, considering the actual ...

The energy analysis revealed that even though cooling increases (9.4%) the panel's energy output, PCM cooling is associated with a high initial energy investment, leading to low energy-return-on-investment values (1.79) compared to PV (4.94). High energy payback times were observed for the PV-PCM (?14 years)

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compared to the PV system (?5 ...

The environmental impacts of PV power generation system from the manufacturing stage (Fthenakis et al., 2005), ... Photovoltaics energy payback times, greenhouse gas emissions and external costs: 2004-early 2005 status. Prog. Photovolt. Res. Appl., 14 ...

**LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS OF HIGH-PERFORMANCE MONOCRYSTALLINE SILICON PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS: ENERGY PAYBACK TIMES AND NET ENERGY PRODUCTION VALUE** Vasilis Fthenakis<sup>1,2</sup>, Rick Betita<sup>2</sup>, Mark Shields<sup>3</sup>, Rob Vinje, Julie Blunden<sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup> Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY, USA, tel. 631-344-2830, fax. 631-344-3957, ...

documented in the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) annual PV system cost benchmark reports (Ramasamy et al. 2022). We analyze and present results for four main LCA metrics: cumulative energy demand (CED), greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, energy payback time (EPBT), and carbon payback time (CPBT).

Update of environmental indicators and energy payback time of CdTe PV systems in Europe ... efficiencies and improving production technologies or recycling processes which affect the environmental profile of PV power generation and Energy Payback Time (EPBT). ... for the first time, the environmental impacts due to an already applied recycling ...

onmental indicators, energy pay back time (EPBT) and greenhouse gases (GHG) emission rate, can be used to easily evaluate the sustainability and environmental performance of PV systems. Life cycle assessment (LCA) is usually used as a technique to compare and analyze the energy using and environmental impacts

An update of Energy Payback Times and Greenhouse Gas emissions in the Life Cycle of Photovoltaics, Proceedings 24th European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference, Hamburg, Germany, 21-25 Sept. 2009 Fthenakis V., and Kim H.C., Land Use and Electricity Generation: A Life-Cycle Analysis, Renewable and Sustainable Energy Review, 13, 1465-1474, 2009

The focus lies on the energy payback time (EPBT) and the CO<sub>2</sub> emission rate achievable with state-of-the-art industri... Update of energy payback time and greenhouse gas emission data for crystalline silicon photovoltaic modules - Wetzl - 2015 - Progress in Photovoltaics: Research and Applications - Wiley Online Library

1 MOST group articles on waste plastic extrusion; 2 Literature Review. 2.1 Novel technique for improved power conversion efficiency in PV systems with battery back-up [1]; 2.2 Photovoltaics: A review of cell and module technologies [2]; 2.3 An evaluation on the life cycle of photovoltaic energy system considering production energy of off-grade silicon [3]; 2.4 Materials for solar ...

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Energy payback times of currently installed systems range from 1.3 (for c-Si PV) and 1.5 years (mc-Si PV) for fixed-tilt ground-mounted installations at low irradiation (1000 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/year), to 0.6 years at high irradiation (2300 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/year). The resulting energy returns on investment--expressed in terms of primary energy--range from 22 ...

The energy payback time (EPBT) of photovoltaic materials when recycled is analyzed. In particular we are interested in under what conditions recycling yields energy payback improvements equivalent to efficiency. ... Previous literature has widely used energy and CO<sub>2</sub> payback to quantify the environmental impacts of energy systems [1], [2], [3] ...

DOI: 10.1016/J.ENERGY.2006.10.003 Corpus ID: 109643404; Life cycle assessment and energy pay-back time of advanced photovoltaic modules : CdTe and CIS compared to poly-Si @article{Raugei2007LifeCA, title={Life cycle assessment and energy pay-back time of advanced photovoltaic modules : CdTe and CIS compared to poly-Si}, ...

Environmental Impacts of Photovoltaic Life Cycles. V. Fthenakis Hyung Chul Kim. Environmental Science. 2012; 7. ... Update of environmental indicators and energy payback time of CdTe PV systems in Europe. ... Photovoltaics energy payback times, greenhouse gas emissions and external costs: 2004-early 2005 status ...

Web: <https://www.wholesalesolar.co.za>