

# Can photovoltaic panels be installed in flood discharge areas

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Can a solar project withstand a flood?

Designing resilient solar projects to withstand catastrophic flooding events is a delicate balance to manage. Designs must meet or exceed code requirements, maintain structural integrity when facing extreme flood events and minimize both project capital costs and operating expenses.

Can solar panels survive a flood?

The latter can be achieved by constructing solar arrays outside of expected flood areas or incorporating a structural design with adequate freeboard and structural strength to survive extreme flood events.

How does flood damage affect solar projects?

If flood protection design requirements do not evolve in parallel to a changing climate, solar projects may see a higher rate of flood damage than expected during their 25-to-40-year lifespan. Flooding impact on renewables  
The impact flooding can have on solar projects is highlighted in the photo below.

How can a solar project mitigate flood risk?

Structural design consideration for tracker stow, equipment freeboard, and pile scour protection are important to mitigate flood risk at solar projects. If flooding is expected within the solar array footprint at a project, trackers can be programmed or manually operated to rotate into a "flood stow" position.

Solar array project sites often encompass large portions of land; therefore, it is economically desirable to minimize land costs. As a result, many sites that meet these two criteria are within flood-prone areas.

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They are often constructed across rural areas of New York State, including in floodplain areas. You should avoid or minimize negative impacts to floodplain areas during installation of these projects.

In this article, I'll share what impacts flooding can have on solar panels and what you can do to protect your investment if you live in a flood-prone area. Let's dive into how these clean energy systems ...

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Discusses the importance of proactive measures, including site assessment, flood level considerations, and various engineering approaches to prevent and mitigate flood damage to solar photovoltaic ...

At a high level, the main stormwater issue associated with solar arrays is the concentrated discharge of stormwater runoff at the solar panel drip line, which can act like un-guttered roofs that channelize and ...

These systems will require controlled outflows, identified discharge locations and potentially land drainage consent. Details of this should be provided with the application.

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Can I install solar panels if my property is in a FEMA-designated flood zone? Yes, properties in all FEMA flood zones--including high-risk Zone A and Zone V--can install solar panels.

Current Requirements for Solar Panel Projects A solar panel project should ideally be installed and placed outside of the floodplain. If this cannot be avoided, the proposed development will need to ...

Proposal outside the floodway does not require DNR approval, however elevation requirement to the flood protection grade and local floodplain permits are still required.

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