

# **Price of Grid-Connected Solar Containerized Units for Mining**





## Overview

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Can mining areas be used for solar energy?

Grid connection is essential for utilizing solar energy. One advantage of utilizing mining area for solar installation is that the existing infrastructure of mines, such as transportation accessibility and industrial facilities, can be leveraged.

Do mining areas have easy grid access?

We found that most mining areas are located within 10 km of the main grid (Figure 2 D). MPV locations within 1 km of the main grid are deemed to have easy grid access, a criterion based on our estimation that 75% of existing PV project sites fall within this range. Overall, 59.5% of the mining areas have easy access to the grid.

What percentage of mining areas are outside the main grid?

Approximately 82.6% and 89.6% of mining areas are located within 4 and 10 km of the main grid, respectively (Figure S4). This suggests that even though 40.5% of mining areas are outside the 1-km buffer of the main grid, most can still be connected to the grid at a relatively low connection cost.

How much electricity can MPV systems generate in a mining area?

Our findings indicate that, within a global mining area of 65,488 km<sup>2</sup> with slopes less than 3°, MPV systems could generate 12,373 TWh of electricity annually from 8,670 GW of installed panels worldwide (Table S1).



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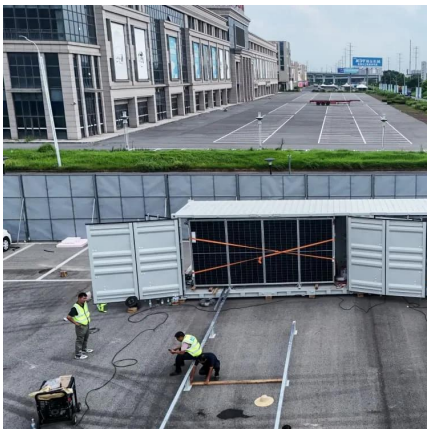


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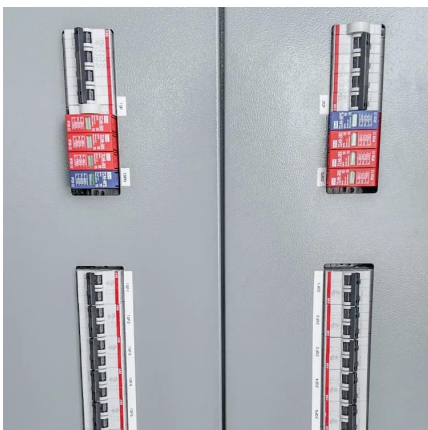
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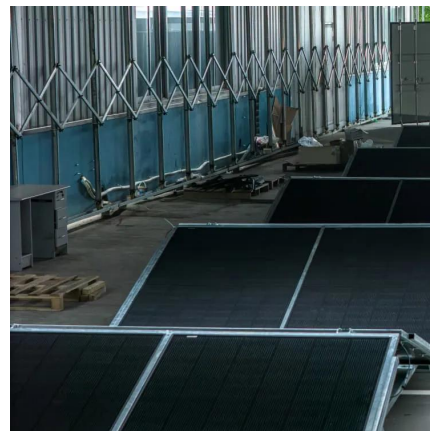


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