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Date: Friday, April 5, 2019 2:28 PM

From: Ron Brand <rlbplans@gmail.com>

To: John Robortella robortella@rochester.rr.com>, Ingalsbe, Peter cpingalsbe@farmingtonny.org>

Subject: Fwd: The Photovoltaic Heat Island Effect: Larger solar power plants increase local temperatures

John,

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this just in from Dr. King on Larger solar power plants. Please distribute to Town Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Thanks, Ron

----- Forwarded Message ------

Subject: The Photovoltaic Heat Island Effect: Larger solar power plants increase local

temperatures

Date: Thu, 4 Apr 2019 15:54:46 +0000

From: King, Robert (Agricultural & Life Sciences) < rking@monroecc.edu>

To: 'Ron Brand (rlbplans@gmail.com)' <rlbplans@gmail.com>

https://www.nature.com/articles/srep35070

The Photovoltaic Heat Island Effect: Larger solar power plants increase local temperatures

- * Greg A. Barron-Gaffordhttps://www.nature.com/articles/srep35070#auth-1
- *, Rebecca L. Minor<https://www.nature.com/articles/srep35070#auth-2>
- *, Nathan A. Allen<https://www.nature.com/articles/srep35070#auth-3>
- *, Alex D. Cronin<https://www.nature.com/articles/srep35070#auth-4>
- *, Adria E. Brooks<https://www.nature.com/articles/srep35070#auth-5>
- * & Mitchell A. Pavao-Zuckermanhttps://www.nature.com/articles/srep35070#auth-6

Scientific Reports volume6, Article number: 35070 (2016)

Abstract

While photovoltaic (PV) renewable energy production has surged, concerns remain about whether or not PV power plants induce a "heat island" (PVHI) effect, much like the increase in ambient temperatures relative to wildlands generates an Urban Heat Island effect in cities. Transitions to PV plants alter the way that incoming energy is reflected back to the atmosphere or absorbed, stored, and reradiated because PV plants change the albedo, vegetation, and structure of the terrain. Prior work on the PVHI has been mostly theoretical or based upon simulated models. Furthermore, past empirical work has been limited in scope to a single biome. Because there are still large uncertainties surrounding the potential for a PHVI effect, we examined the PVHI empirically with experiments that spanned three biomes. We found temperatures over a PV plant were regularly 3–4 °C warmer than wildlands at night, which is in direct contrast to other studies based on models that suggested that PV systems should decrease ambient temperatures. Deducing the underlying cause and scale of the PVHI effect and identifying mitigation strategies are key in supporting decision-making regarding PV development, particularly in semiarid landscapes, which are among the most likely for large-scale PV installations.

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