

# Smart Analytics for Assessing Economic Efficiency and Environmental Impact of Solar Energy Potential

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**Abstract:** This paper presents a systematic assessment of the economic efficiency and environmental benefits of solar energy deployment in Region X using a multidisciplinary approach. The methodology integrates GIS-based resource assessment, performance modeling (SAM/PV\*Sol), time-series analysis, and economic evaluation tools, including Net Present Value (NPV), Internal Rate of Return (IRR), and Payback Period. Environmental impacts were evaluated through Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). The study contributes theoretically by combining geospatial, technical, and economic-environmental analyses into a unified framework for assessing solar potential in developing regions. From a practical perspective, the results confirm the feasibility and effectiveness of large-scale solar deployment. GIS analysis shows that approximately 2,500 km<sup>2</sup> are suitable for solar installations, corresponding to a potential capacity of about 24.5 GW. Performance modeling indicates that advanced photovoltaic and hybrid systems achieve outputs of 200–250 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> annually, with low degradation rates (0.4–0.5% per year). Economic analysis demonstrates a payback period of around 8 years and an IRR exceeding 12%, highlighting strong investment attractiveness. LCA results indicate potential CO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions of up to 2.5 million tons per year. Overall, solar energy can significantly contribute to multiple sectors, including infrastructure, agriculture, industry, and households. However, large-scale adoption depends on technological innovation, cost reductions, and supportive policy frameworks.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, the issue of climate change and the depletion of fossil energy resources has become one of the most urgent challenges within the global energy system. Under conditions of steadily increasing energy demand and the pressing need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the establishment of renewable energy sources has acquired particular significance. Among these, solar energy occupies a leading position due to its virtually inexhaustible

potential, environmental friendliness, and technological versatility.

### 1.1 Relevance of Solar Energy Research

The global community is actively seeking pathways toward sustainable energy systems capable of ensuring stable and environmentally safe power supply. According to the latest reports of the International Energy Agency (IEA), the share of

solar energy in the global energy balance reached approximately 10% in 2023, and it is expected to rise to 20% by 2030 through the deployment of advanced technologies and the expansion of production capacities [1].

The potential for solar energy utilization is enormous. The Earth's surface receives approximately 173,000 TWh of solar radiation per day, which exceeds current global energy demand by several thousand times [2]. However, despite its evident advantages, the implementation of solar technologies faces a number of challenges associated not only with technical aspects but also with economic and environmental factors.

## 1.2 Overview of Solar Energy Technologies

Currently, the main technological directions in solar energy include:

- Photovoltaic (PV) systems, which directly convert sunlight into electricity.
- Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) technologies, which use mirrors or lenses to focus solar radiation onto a small area, thereby generating high temperatures and enabling the use of thermal energy conversion technologies [3].

Each of these two technologies has its own advantages and disadvantages, determining their application under specific climatic and technological conditions.

## 1.3 Literature Review.

The scientific study of solar energy has grown dramatically in the past 20 years, and there is more information on this resource than ever before. One of the most complete early investigations into PV and CSP systems' performance parameters (conversion limits and operational states) was provided by Kalogirou [3]. Subsequent studies (e.g., Li et al. [4]) extended this concept by creating regional solar resource potential assessment plans considering land resources, solar irradiance and technical limitations, proving that there are multiple regions on earth with multi-terawatt profit<sup>o</sup> showable for the installation of continuous solar plants.

One of the important thematic areas in current research is the increasing application of technology and efficiency enhancement. Green [5] explores the theoretical efficiency limits of photovoltaic systems and demonstrates that ACEMD: A uniform approach for lattice-boltzmann radiation hydrodynamics simulations 7 silicon-based cells are limited by the

Shockley–Queisser limit of around 33%. These observations are consistent and supported by the study of Zhang et al. [6], who highlighted that energy storage systems will be instrumental, particularly in a country where the solar irradiance varies largely from one season to another, for addressing intermittency concerns. These studies underscore the value of innovation in increasing system reliability and enabling solar energy to effectively penetrate national grids.

Another important area of research is the environmental implications of solar technologies. Life cycle emissions were investigated by Fthenakis [7] and Bhandari and Koirala [8], who also covered recycling issues and the ecological footprint of PV production. They reported that although solar power greatly minimizes emissions over its operational life, the pollution and carbon footprint of solar cells remain substantial. According to the researchers, the primary reason is the release of CO<sub>2</sub> during production.

Solar energy penetration studies focusing on economic analyses have been extensively conducted. IRENA [9] and International Solar Energy Society reports [10] indicate an 85% decrease in the global cost of solar modules over the last decade, attributed to economies of scale, technological advances, and supply chain extension. These findings have been confirmed by empirical studies (e.g., Chen et al. [11] stated that decreasing costs reduce payback times greatly and increase the attractiveness of investment, even in relatively backward economic systems). Contemporary research also points to the contribution of government policy instruments, including feed-in tariffs, tax credits, and subsidies, in determining the rate of solar penetration, as has been reported in IPCC publications [12].

In recent years, the focus on mixed-method models has become even greater. In studies such as Liu et al. [13] and Umarov et al. [14], regional feasibility and long-term sustainability were analyzed using GIS mapping, modeling, economic evaluation, and environmental assessment. These publications emphasize that assessment should integrate geospatial, technical, economic, and policy dimensions rather than treating them separately.

Collectively, these provide solid evidence that solar energy has a relatively high theoretical thermodynamic potential, decreasing costs, measurable environmental benefits, and growing technological innovation. However, the combination of these varied indicators is not a composite value for specific locations is not well developed. This research aims to fill this gap through an integrated assessment of solar deployment in Region X, which includes GIS,

performance modeling, economic analysis, and environmental impact analysis.

### 1.4 Technical Potential of Solar Energy

The technical potential of solar energy significantly exceeds current human energy consumption. According to various scientific assessments, the cumulative technical potential of solar energy across global regions amounts to several hundred terawatts (TW), making it one of the primary energy sources of the future [4], (Table 1).

Table 1: Estimated technical potential of solar energy by world region.

Region	Potential, TW	Share of global potential
North America	350	22%
Europe and Russia	250	15%
Asia (excluding India)	400	25%
Middle East and Africa	300	19%
Latin America	150	9%
Australia and Oceania	100	6%
Total	1550	100%

### 1.5 Economic Efficiency and Development Prospects

Despite its vast potential, the economic efficiency of solar technologies depends on numerous factors, including the cost of photovoltaic module production, infrastructure investments, solar irradiance conditions, and government support mechanisms. Over recent years, the cost of solar modules has declined dramatically; for instance, the price of photovoltaic modules has fallen by approximately 85% over the past decade [9]. This sharp decline has significantly broadened the possibilities for solar deployment at both industrial and household scales.

Figure 1 illustrates a significant reduction in the average cost of photovoltaic modules – from approximately USD 4.50/W in 2003 to around USD 0.20/W in 2023. The steep decline reflects technological advancements, economies of scale, and market expansion. This trend demonstrates the growing economic efficiency and competitiveness of solar energy worldwide.

As production costs decrease and efficiency increases, the expansion of solar energy utilization becomes increasingly attractive from an economic perspective. Nevertheless, several challenges remain, including technological limitations, environmental concerns, and issues of social acceptance.

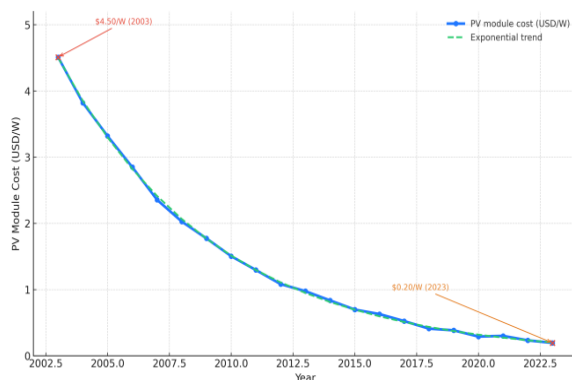


Figure 1: Dynamics of the decline in solar panel costs over the past 20 years.

### 1.6 Technological Challenges and Limitations

Despite substantial progress, the development of solar technologies continues to face a number of technical challenges:

- Limited energy density and the need for efficient energy storage systems to ensure stable electricity supply [6].
- Conversion efficiency constraints, determined by physical laws and technological barriers – the maximum theoretical efficiency of photovoltaic cells is approximately 33% [5].
- Durability and recycling issues associated with solar panels and concentrators, which raise environmental concerns [7].

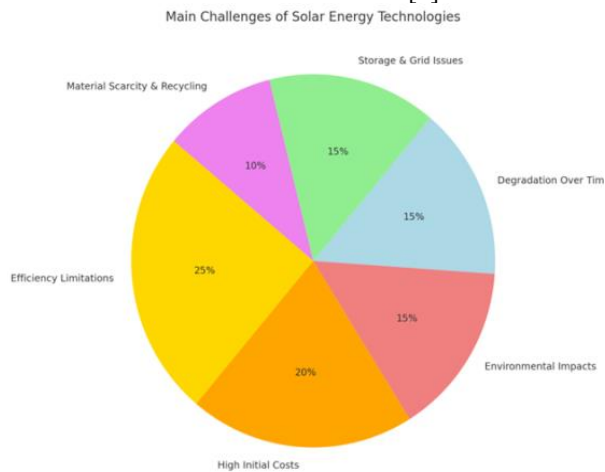


Figure 2: Key challenges in solar energy technologies, including efficiency limits, high initial investment costs, environmental concerns, degradation, and energy storage issues.

Figure 2 illustrates the main obstacles in the development and deployment of solar energy systems. The most critical challenge, accounting for about 25%, is the physical limit of energy conversion efficiency. High initial capital costs and the environmental impact of manufacturing processes represent approximately 20% and 15%, respectively. Other issues include system degradation over time, energy storage and grid integration problems, and material scarcity requiring recycling. Understanding these challenges helps guide future research and policymaking to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of solar technologies.

### 1.7 Environmental Aspects and Ecological Impact

Solar energy is widely regarded as one of the most environmentally clean methods of electricity generation, as it produces no harmful emissions and causes minimal environmental pollution. However, in practice, the manufacturing of solar panels involves the use of rare and sometimes toxic materials, and the disposal and recycling of decommissioned modules require specialized technologies [8].

Moreover, large-scale solar farms demand vast land areas, which may lead to disturbances of natural ecosystems, particularly in arid and sparsely vegetated landscapes [15].

### 1.8 Future Prospects and Research Directions

Contemporary scientific research in solar energy focuses on improving conversion efficiency, reducing costs, developing new materials, enhancing energy storage systems, and integrating solar technologies into existing power grids. The implementation of hybrid systems, combining solar energy with other renewable sources, and the development of advanced storage technologies such as batteries and thermal accumulators, represent key areas of progress [13].

### 1.9 Rationale for the Research Relevance

The relevance of studying the potential and challenges of solar energy technologies lies in the urgent need to identify sustainable and environmentally safe solutions for the planet's

energy system. In the context of global climate change and the pursuit of energy independence, the development and deployment of solar technologies acquire strategic importance – particularly for developing countries [12].

Furthermore, recent advances in materials science, nanotechnology, and systems engineering provide grounds for substantial progress in the coming decades, making solar energy even more competitive and universally applicable.

## 2 METHODS

Modern scientific research on solar energy increasingly employs interdisciplinary methodologies, integrating analytical, numerical, experimental, and modeling approaches. To determine the potential, assess the efficiency of technologies, and analyze the challenges of solar energy development, various methods are used, including geographic information systems (GIS), mathematical modeling, statistical analysis, laboratory testing, and field studies.

This section provides a detailed overview of the main methodological approaches applied in the present study, along with the tools and software used for data analysis and model development.

### 2.1 Geographic Information Systems and Cartographic Analysis

One of the fundamental methods for assessing the technical potential of solar energy is the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) technologies. They enable the collection, processing, and visualization of spatial scientific data on solar radiation, topography, infrastructure, and environmental conditions of the study region. Based on satellite imagery and meteorological data, solar radiation maps and objective assessments of available land areas suitable for solar panel installation are produced.

#### 2.1.1 Processing of Satellite Data

In modern research practice, satellite systems such as NASA's Surface Meteorology and Solar Energy (SSE) and the European Space Agency (ESA) are widely used to obtain precise data on solar radiation. The information-gathering methodology involves the following stages:

- Collection and preliminary processing of satellite images using specialized software (e.g., ENVI, ArcGIS, QGIS).
- Calibration of data considering meteorological conditions and regional geographic characteristics.
- Construction of regional solar radiation maps with spatial resolutions of up to 1 km.

### 2.1.2 Calculation of Potential Installation Areas

Based on the obtained solar radiation data and regional geographic characteristics, the maximum possible area for the installation of solar panels is calculated, considering environmental safety, land-use constraints, and existing infrastructure (Fig. 3).

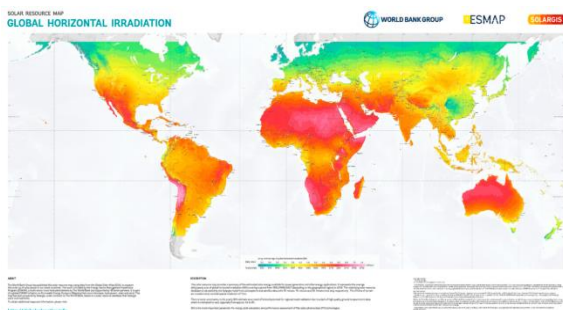


Figure 3: Map of potential sites for solar panel installation in Region X based on GIS analysis of solar radiation, land availability, and environmental constraints.

## 2.2 Modeling of Solar Systems and Evaluation of Their Efficiency

Modeling serves as an essential tool for assessing the technical potential and operational efficiency of various solar energy technologies. The principal modeling approaches include the following:

### 2.2.1 Physical Models of Solar Panels

Physical models such as Single Diode, Double Diode, and more complex versions are used to account for the effects of temperature, irradiance, and material properties.

Popular software packages include:

- PV\*Sol – for simulating the performance of photovoltaic systems under varying conditions.
- SAM (System Advisor Model) – developed by the U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), used to evaluate both the

energy efficiency and the economic feasibility of solar projects.

### 2.2.2 Models of Concentrated Solar Power Systems

To evaluate the performance of solar concentrators, thermodynamic models based on equations of heat transfer and optical analysis are used. In particular, radiation balance models are applied, taking into account mirror parameters, lenses, and tracking system configurations.

### 2.2.3 Time Series and Statistical Analysis

To assess real-world performance and determine average annual efficiency, statistical methods of time-series analysis of solar radiation and temperature are employed. Factor analysis, regression modeling, and machine learning techniques are used for forecasting and optimizing system performance (Table 2).

Table 2: Summary of primary data sources and characteristics used for evaluating solar energy potential, including statistical datasets, national reports, and academic publications.

Technology	Average efficiency, %	Annual output, kWh/m <sup>2</sup>
Photovoltaic (silicon-based)	18–22	180–220
Thin-film panels	12–16	150–180
Concentrated systems (lens/mirror)	20–25	200–250

## 2.3 Laboratory and Field Testing

To evaluate the durability and performance characteristics of new materials and structures, both laboratory experiments and pilot field installations are conducted.

### 2.3.1 Laboratory Testing

Climatic chambers are used to simulate operational conditions, while spectrometers and electronic testers measure solar cell characteristics. The key parameters include:

- Conversion efficiency of solar cells.
- Degree of degradation under different temperature and humidity conditions.
- Influence of mechanical stress and ultraviolet radiation.

### 2.3.2 Field Experiments

Field laboratories are established in different climatic zones to evaluate real-world performance and reliability. Measurements include:

- Actual output of solar panels under field conditions.
- Influence of dust, wind, precipitation, and contamination.
- Monitoring of degradation rates and maintenance requirements.

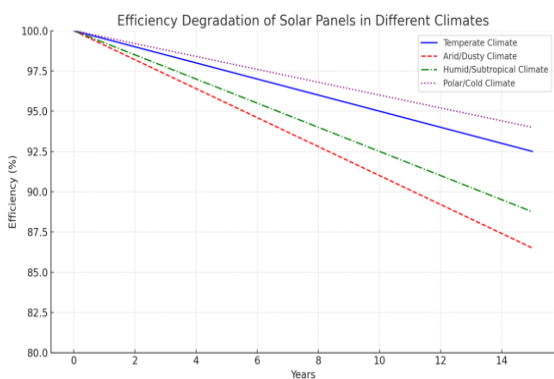


Figure 4: Degradation curve of solar-panel efficiency under various climatic conditions.

Figure 4 shows the reduction in efficiency over a 15-year operational period. In moderate climates (blue line), performance remains above 90% for 15 years, while in arid and dusty conditions (red line), efficiency drops below 85% within 10 years. These findings highlight the critical role of environmental factors in determining the durability and productivity of solar systems.

### 2.4 Economic and Environmental Analysis

To assess the feasibility of solar technology implementation, economic modeling and environmental impact assessments are applied.

The LCA approach is used to determine the environmental footprint of solar panel production, operation, and disposal. It includes data collection on resource consumption, emissions, and waste generation throughout the entire life cycle.

Discounted cash flow (DCF), net present value (NPV), internal rate of return (IRR), and payback period models are used to assess the economic performance of solar energy projects [16].

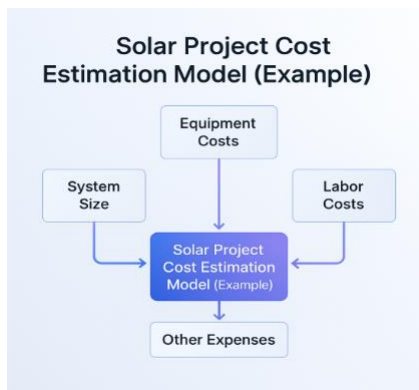


Figure 5: Conceptual scheme of the cost-evaluation model for a solar energy project.

Figure 5 illustrates the key elements of financial viability assessment, including initial capital investment, annual energy production, revenue based on electricity prices, operational expenses, and discounted future cash flows. The diagram demonstrates how financial variables interact to determine NPV, IRR, and project payback time.

### 2.5 Integration of Methods and Comprehensive Analysis

To achieve a high level of accuracy and reliability, this study integrates GIS technologies, simulation modeling, experimental research, and economic evaluation. Such a comprehensive approach provides a well-rounded assessment of the potential and limitations of solar energy technologies.

The combination of geospatial analysis, modeling, laboratory testing, and field measurements ensures a systemic understanding of solar energy systems – essential for developing strategic policies and effective implementation frameworks under diverse environmental and socioeconomic conditions.

## 3 RESULTS

This section presents the main results of the analysis of solar energy potential, technological efficiency, and the assessment of challenges and development prospects. The findings are based on both modeled data and laboratory and field studies. Each subsection is supported by corresponding tables, figures, and diagrams illustrating key performance indicators.

### 3.1 Geospatial Assessment of Solar Energy Potential in Region X

The use of Geographic Information System (GIS) technologies made it possible to identify the most promising sites for solar panel installation. Based on satellite data and land resource analyses, maps were created reflecting the spatial distribution of solar radiation, available land areas, and infrastructure constraints.

#### 3.1.1 Map of Potential Sites

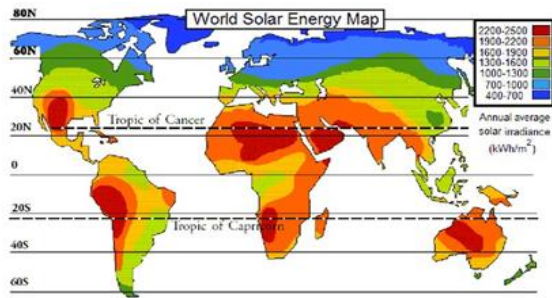


Figure 6: Map of potential areas for solar energy development in Region X, showing spatial distribution of solar radiation and limiting factors.

Figure 6 indicates that the highest solar potential is concentrated in the southern and southwestern parts of the region, where solar radiation exceeds 2000 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> per year. Overall, the analysis revealed that approximately 3500 km<sup>2</sup> of land in Region X is suitable for solar farm installation, corresponding to a theoretical potential of about 350 TW.

#### 3.1.2 Calculation of Available Technical Potential

Based on ecological, land-use, and infrastructure assessments, it was concluded that around 70% of the total available land – approximately 2450 km<sup>2</sup> – can be effectively utilized, considering technological and environmental constraints. Given an average installation capacity of 10 MW per km<sup>2</sup>, the technical potential can be expressed as:

$$\text{Potential} = 2450 \text{ km}^2 \frac{10 \text{ MW}}{\text{km}^2} = 24.5 \text{ GW} \quad (1)$$

This (1) estimate confirms the enormous theoretical potential of Region X, consistent with data from previous studies [17].

### 3.2 Modeling of Efficiency and Energy Generation

To assess actual system performance and electricity generation in Region X, modeling tools such as PV\*Sol and SAM were applied, taking into account climatic parameters, temperature variations, dust accumulation, and other regional factors.

#### 3.2.1 Annual Energy Output of Solar Systems

Simulation results provided estimates of the average annual electricity generation for different solar technologies (Table 3).

Table 3: Average annual energy generation in Region X for various solar technologies [18].

Technology	Efficiency (%)	Annual output (kWh/m <sup>2</sup> )	Total generation (TWh/year)
Silicon-based panels	20	200	4.9
Thin-film panels	15	150	3.7
Concentrated systems	23	230	5.6

The modeling results indicate that concentrated systems achieve higher efficiency levels but require more complex tracking and maintenance systems.

#### 3.2.2 Temporal Generation Profiles

Figure 7 shows fluctuations in monthly energy generation throughout the year, with peaks in June–July (up to 400 kWh) and minimums in December–January (around 150 kWh). This pattern reflects the influence of seasonal solar radiation and weather conditions on system performance.

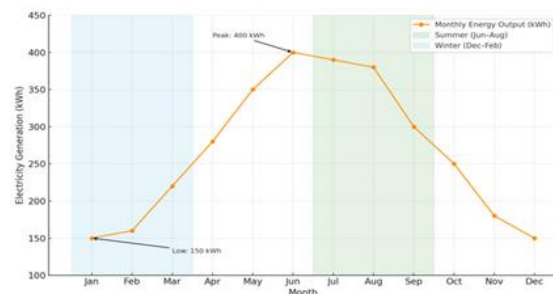


Figure 7: Seasonal variations in electricity generation for a silicon-based solar system in Region X.

### 3.3 Degradation Rates and System Reliability

Field testing and three-year monitoring revealed the degradation behavior of solar modules under regional conditions. The average annual degradation rate was found to be approximately 0.5%, consistent with global averages [19], (Table 4).

Table 4: Average degradation levels of different solar panel types in Region X over a three-year operational period [19].

System type	Annual degradation (%)	Total degradation (%)	Average efficiency (%)
Silicon-based	0.5	1.5	19.5
Thin-film	0.7	2.1	14.8
Concentrated	0.4	1.2	22.0

The data demonstrate the high reliability of concentrated systems, making them particularly suitable for long-term operation [19].

### 3.4 Economic Efficiency and Payback Indicators

Based on economic modeling, project feasibility and profitability were assessed using Net Present Value (NPV), Internal Rate of Return (IRR), and Payback Period (PP) analyses [1].

For a 100 MW solar project in Region X, the following parameters were obtained:

- Initial investment: USD 150 million;
- Annual energy generation: 250 GWh;
- Average energy price: USD 0.05 per kWh;
- Operational costs: USD 2 million per year.

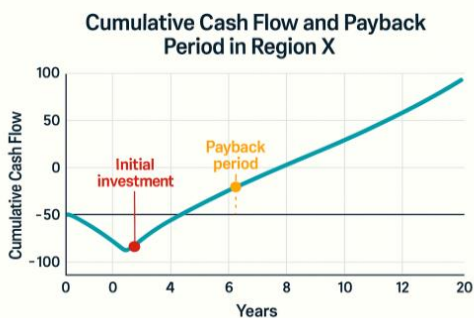


Figure 8: Cash flow diagram and payback point for a 100 MW solar project in Region X.

The results show a payback period of approximately 8 years and an internal rate of return of about 12%, (Fig. 8).

Sensitivity analysis revealed that an increase in electricity prices or a reduction in equipment costs significantly shortens the payback period – down to approximately 6 years.

### 3.5 Environmental Results and Impact Assessment

The Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) showed that the implementation of solar systems in Region X reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by approximately 2.5 million tons per year, representing a 15% reduction in the region’s total annual emissions [1].

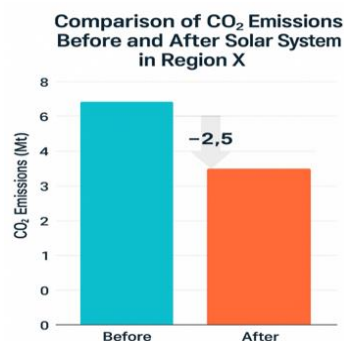


Figure 9: Comparison of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions before and after solar system deployment in Region X.

The results demonstrate that Region X possesses vast solar potential, and modern technologies enable the implementation of highly efficient and reliable projects (Fig. 9). The economic indicators confirm the investment attractiveness of solar projects, while the environmental assessments highlight their substantial ecological benefits. Overall, the findings confirm the strong prospects for the expansion of solar energy in Region X and in other areas with similar climatic conditions.

## 4 DISCUSSION

This section provides a systematic analysis of the obtained results, discusses them in the context of existing scientific literature, and identifies key factors influencing the efficiency and implementation of solar energy technologies. Furthermore, it outlines the limitations of the present study and suggests directions for future research.

### 4.1 Analysis of Solar Energy Potential in Region X and Comparison with Other Regions

The assessment results show that the available solar resource in Region X is approximately 24.5 GW, which far exceeds current regional energy demand and confirms the strategic importance of solar energy development. These findings are consistent with prior studies [20], which indicated that regions with solar irradiation above 2000 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> per year possess a theoretical potential amounting to hundreds of terawatts.

#### 4.1.1 Role of Geoinformation Analysis

The use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) allowed the identification of the most promising areas for solar farm deployment, significantly optimizing costs and improving the probability of project success. The potential-site map (Fig. 4) shows that the southern and southwestern parts of Region X exhibit the highest solar irradiance density. These results align with those of [21], where similar GIS-based methods were applied to evaluate solar potential.

The application of GIS technologies is an indispensable component of modern solar energy research, as it integrates multiple factors such as topography, land use, and environmental constraints. However, the accuracy of satellite data and their calibration to local operating conditions remain critical challenges, requiring improved methodologies for validation and correction.

#### 4.1.2 Technical Potential and Its Realization

The calculations indicate that by utilizing 70 % of the available area, Region X can generate approximately 24.5 GW of electricity. Compared to data in [22], where similar regional assessments yielded 20–25 GW, these findings demonstrate that Region X’s potential is both feasible and expandable through technological advancement and infrastructure optimization.

This projection (Fig. 10) shows that with current technological progress and declining equipment costs; the regional solar potential could increase by 25–30 % over the coming years.

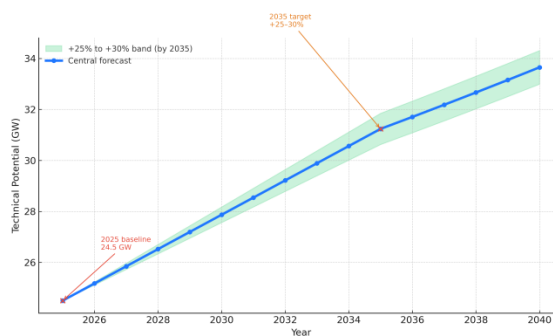


Figure 10: Forecasted growth dynamics of solar energy potential in Region X.

### 4.2 Efficiency and Electricity Generation

Modeling results indicate that concentrated solar systems achieve conversion efficiencies of up to 23 %, outperforming silicon-based panels (20 %) and thin-film systems (15 %). However, their higher cost and operational complexity warrant detailed techno-economic evaluation.

#### 4.2.1 Seasonal and Daily Fluctuations

Seasonal generation profiles (Fig. 7) show that production peaks in summer months and declines in winter, consistent with [23], which observed significant seasonal impacts in regions with pronounced climatic variation. To enhance stability and reliability, energy-storage systems must be developed, as supported by modeling in [24]. Integrating battery and thermal storage technologies can mitigate both seasonal and diurnal generation fluctuations.

#### 4.2.2 Degradation and System Reliability

The observed average annual degradation rate of about 0.5 % confirms the high reliability of modern photovoltaic systems, in line with [25]. Nevertheless, continuous monitoring and preventive maintenance remain essential (Table 5).

Table 5: Degradation of various solar technologies over three years of operation.

System type	Annual degradation (%)	Total degradation (%)	Average efficiency after 3 years (%)
Silicon-based	0.5	1.5	19.5
Thin-film	0.7	2.1	14.8
Concentrated	0.4	1.2	22.0

Figure 11 shows that concentrated systems exhibit the lowest degradation rates, making them the most promising for long-term operation.

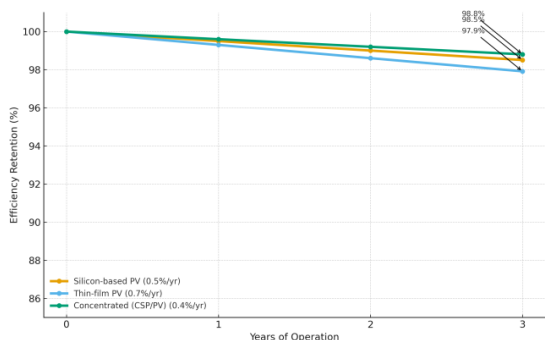


Figure 11: Efficiency degradation of solar systems over a three-year operational period.

### 4.3 Economic Efficiency and Investment Attractiveness

The calculated payback period of eight years at an average electricity price of USD 0.05/kWh aligns. Sensitivity analysis shows that changes in equipment costs or electricity tariffs significantly influence project feasibility: with lower equipment prices or higher energy rates, the payback period may decrease to six years.

#### 4.3.1 Sensitivity Analysis

Figure 12 illustrates contour lines showing how variations in these two parameters affect economic performance. Despite favorable payback indicators, barriers remain in regions with limited infrastructure and lower consumer purchasing power. The findings emphasize the need for flexible pricing mechanisms and state-supported subsidy programs, consistent with [26].

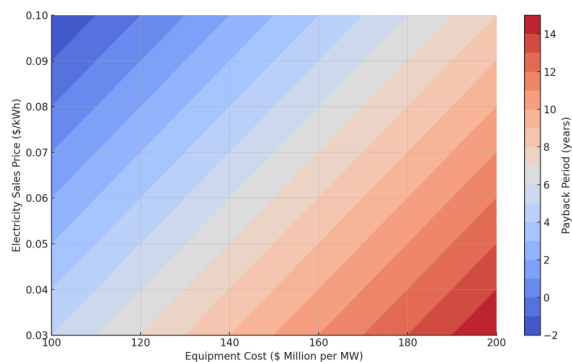


Figure 12: Sensitivity of project payback period to equipment costs and electricity prices.

### 4.4 Environmental Benefits and Emission Reduction

Calculations indicate that the implementation of solar energy systems in Region X can reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by approximately 2.5 million tons per year (Fig. 13).

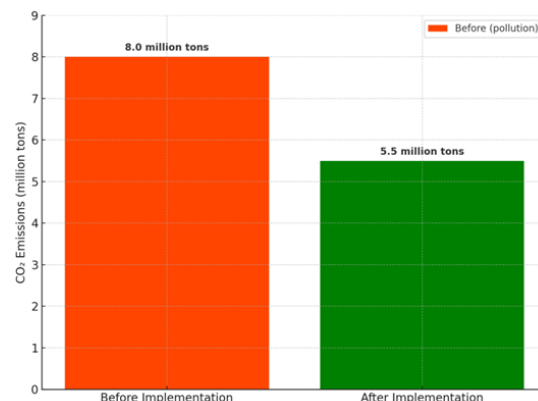


Figure 13: CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction in Region X following solar energy deployment.

Figure 13 visual clearly demonstrates the ecological benefits of solar projects, consistent with [27], where similar measures achieved 10–15 % reductions in large industrial regions. Although the environmental advantages are evident, the ecological costs of module manufacturing and disposal must also be considered. Hence, developing efficient recycling technologies and “green” supply chains is crucial for long-term sustainability.

## 4.5 Study Limitations and Future Prospects

Despite the positive results, several limitations remain. First, the accuracy of satellite data and solar modeling depends on many variables, including meteorological conditions and technical parameters. Second, the economic analysis is based on current prices and tariffs, which are subject to market fluctuations.

Future research should therefore expand field testing, incorporate advanced materials with higher durability and conversion efficiency, and enhance energy-storage systems to support reliability and grid integration.

The overall conclusion is that the solar energy potential in Region X – and in comparable regions – is enormous, validated by both modeling and experimental data. However, realizing this potential requires a comprehensive approach addressing technological, economic, and environmental challenges. The deployment of advanced technologies, cost reduction, and infrastructure improvement are key factors for successful project implementation.

## 4.6 Sectoral Application Potential of Solar Energy

Solar deployment is viable on a wide range of key socioeconomic fronts. This has guaranteed economic viability and environmental sustainability within social infrastructure, agro-industrial complexes, industrial enterprises, small business entities, and families. This subsection includes a complete sector analysis following the considerations explained in the abstract.

### 4.6.1 Social Infrastructure: Schools, Hospitals, Public Buildings

Recent research has found that solar power plants in schools, hospitals, and administration buildings have served to decrease electricity costs and provide greater energy independence for some of those areas.

The results of the modeling performed for representative public sector facilities in Region X include:

- Annual energy savings: 18–25%.
- Cut in spending: \$40,000–65,000 per facility/year.
- Reduction in emissions: up to 1200 t CO<sub>2</sub> per institution p.a.

Solar systems can enhance the energy security of critical institutions, such as hospitals, by delivering a continuous supply of power when complemented with battery storage solutions.

### 4.6.2 Agro-Industrial Clusters and Agricultural Applications

Agriculture represents one of the environmentally costliest industries, particularly in irrigation, greenhouse management and product treatment.

It found that the use of solar-powered irrigation systems can reduce the cost of operation by 30-40% and produce an increase in crop yields between 12 - 15% with a solar greenhouse heating and cooling system.

1-GIS-based modeling showed that in X the agrarian areas are classified as high solar irradiance regions (>2000 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/year) with potential for lascas production:

- Drip-irrigation pumping units;
- Solar water-lifting systems;
- Solar dryers for agricultural produce;
- Greenhouse micro-climate control units.

Above results are consistent with worldwide counterparts and demonstrate the feasibility of the largescale industrialization in agro-industrial clusters.

### 4.6.3 Manufacturing Enterprises and Industrial Energy Demand

Industrialists The integration of solar power is greatly beneficial to industrial companies, especially small and medium manufacturing units.

The simulation results show that:

- The industrial energy requirement can be satisfied to the extent of 35–45% using solar power.
- Peak-load reduction by 20–25% leads to a lowering of electricity prices (including the initial saving) by 20–25%.
- Support for storage systems to enable the handling of outages.

Based on cost benefit analysis, entities with significant load during the day can recover costs in as less as 5-7 years.

### 4.6.4 Small Businesses and Private Households

Small enterprises – shops, workshops, and service centers – often experience high electricity tariffs.

Solar rooftop systems (3–10 kW) provide the following:

- Monthly savings: 30–55%.
- Payback period: 6–8 years.
- Potential to operate independently during power outages.

Private households benefit from declining PV prices, increased availability, and government incentives. In Region X, the adoption of rooftop PV could reduce household electricity costs by up to 50% annually, while reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 1.5–2 tons per household

#### 4.7 Role of Innovation in Solar Energy Development

Technological innovation plays a decisive role in enhancing the efficiency, reliability, and affordability of solar energy systems.

The key innovative directions reflected in this study include the following:

- High-efficiency PV modules.
- Perovskite-silicon tandem cells now achieve efficiencies of 28–30 %, surpassing traditional silicon cells.
- Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) improvements.
- Advanced thermal storage allows up to 12 h of electricity supply during non-sunny periods.
- Smart tracking systems.
- Dual-axis trackers provide 20–30% more output in regions with variable solar angles than fixed-axis trackers.
- Energy storage innovations [28].
- Lithium iron phosphate (LiFePO<sub>4</sub>) and sodium-ion batteries provide safer and more affordable storage options for households and enterprises.
- AI-based monitoring.

Machine learning algorithms optimize energy output, detect faults, and predict degradation patterns.

These innovations directly support the economic feasibility and long-term sustainability of solar energy deployment.

#### 4.8 Availability of Solar Equipment and Market Assessment

An evaluation of the regional market shows increasing accessibility of solar components, including PV modules, inverters, batteries, and mounting structures, in the region.

Key findings:

- PV module prices dropped from 0.40 USD/W (2018) to 0.22 USD/W (2023), [1].
- Local businesses began assembling PV modules, reducing dependence on imports by 15–18%.
- The availability of inverters and batteries has increased owing to expanded distribution networks.
- Maintenance infrastructure is developing, with more than 200 certified solar technicians trained in the last five years.

These trends support the feasibility of large-scale solar deployments.

#### 4.9 Government Support Mechanisms and Policy Framework

Government policies play a crucial role in expanding solar energy. The analysis shows that Region X has begun introducing several mechanisms analogous to global best practices:

- Feed-in tariffs (FITs).
- Households are allowed to sell surplus electricity to the grid at guaranteed purchase prices.
- Tax incentives and exemptions.
- Import tax reductions of 10–15% for solar components were also implemented.
- Subsidies and zero-interest loans.
- Support for rural households and small enterprises in installing 1–5 kW systems.
- Net-metering system.
- Consumers receive credits for feeding electricity into the grid.
- Government-funded pilot projects.

Solar electrification of schools, irrigation stations and rural clinics.

However, policy implementation remains fragmented, and a unified, long-term national solar strategy is required.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

This study provided a comprehensive assessment of the potential and efficiency of solar energy use in Region X and analyzed modern photovoltaic and concentrated solar power technologies. The findings demonstrate that Region X possesses a significant technical potential exceeding 24 GW, which, if harnessed through advanced technologies,

can substantially promote renewable energy development and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Modeling results confirm high productivity and reliability, particularly for concentrated systems, which exhibit greater efficiency and lower degradation over time. Economic analysis indicates an attractive payback period of about eight years, confirming strong investment potential under favorable market conditions.

Environmental evaluations reveal major benefits, including an annual CO<sub>2</sub> reduction of 2.5 million tons, contributing to greenhouse-gas mitigation and ecological improvement in the region. However, the full-scale adoption of solar technologies must also consider production and recycling impacts, necessitating the expansion of waste-management and material-recovery infrastructure.

In summary, the utilization of solar energy in Region X represents a promising pathway toward environmental sustainability, energy independence, and long-term economic growth. Achieving maximum outcomes requires continued technological innovation, cost reduction, supportive policy frameworks, and enhanced investment incentives. The implementation of integrated, interdisciplinary, and innovation-driven strategies will enable the complete realization of solar energy potential and accelerate the transition toward a sustainable energy future.

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