Google Sustainability

Introduction

At Google, we believe global businesses should lead the way to improving people's lives while reducing dependence on primary materials and energy from fossil fuels

Major themes

Utilizing energy from renewable sources Designing out waste from our operations Deep Dive on Project Sunroof

Energy from renewable sources

2007 Carbon neutral 2010 Began buying renewable energy at scale 2016

Largest, non-utility, corporate renewable energy purchaser in the world

Recurrent Energy, Sacramento, California

NAMES OF TAXABLE PARTY.



Designing out waste



50%

More energy efficient than industry average

65-85%

Carbon and energy savings on IT infrastructure

40%

Reduction in energy used for cooling from machine learning

Zero waste to landfill

Diverting 86% of waste from landfills at our data centers

6 of 13 data centers have 100% diversion rates

Data center in Mayes County, OK first data center to achieve zero waste to landfill

86%

Landfill diversion rate at Bay Area campuses

1mil lbs

Of food diverted in the past year in the Bay Area

Project Sunroof

SOLAR ENERGY

HOW CAN GOOGLE CONTRIBUTE?





Covering a portion of the Sahara Desert in panels could generate enough energy to power the world.

1hr World's energy for a year

20% Electricity savings

Low Carbon emissions

WHY SUNROOF



Residential solar seeing rapid growth due to falling panel costs



Source: SEIA Solar Market Report

The Solar Moore's Law "Swanson's Law" Declining prices with rising volume



MAJOR HEADWINDS

Google



SLOWING GROWTH

→ US Slowing from 57% CAGR (2006-2015) to 11% (2015 - 2021E)

→ GERMANY At 52% of installation targets in 2015, despite being #1 market in world



KEY CHALLENGES | RISING CUSTOMER ACQUISITION COSTS

Account for up to 30% of overall residential solar costs.









Project Sunroof's goal:

Provide high quality information to accelerate the growth of solar and help the world transition to clean energy.

Google strengths

- Expansive aerial imagery
- Powerful, low cost computing
- Large user base
- Trusted brand

TECHNICAL DETAILS

HOW DO WE DO IT?



What do we need to know?

- Where are the roofs?
- How much energy can each roof produce?
- How much will it cost to get solar panels?
- How much energy does the household use?



What do we need to know?

- Where are the roofs?
- How much energy can each roof produce?
- How much will it cost to get solar panels?
- How much energy does the household use?

IMAGERY AT GOOGLE

Oblique images numbering in the millions





ROOFTOP ESTIMATION





Initial maps data + heuristic refinement



Google Brain

Better roof maps



What do we need to know?

- Where are the roofs?
- How much energy can each roof produce?
- How much will it cost to get solar panels?
- How much energy does the household use?

SUNROOF OVERVIEW

Sunroof uses 3D models from aerial imagery to assess energy production potential

For every roof For every pixel on roof For every hour in a typical year







What do we need to know?

- Where are the roofs?
- How much energy can each roof produce?
- How much will it cost to get solar panels?
- How much energy does the household use?

Import third-party data



Financing





What do we need to know?

- Where are the roofs?
- How much energy can each roof produce?
- How much will it cost to get solar panels?
- How much energy does the household use?



Ask the user!



DOES IT WORK?

SUNROOF ESTIMATES APPEAR AS GOOD OR BETTER THAN CURRENT INDUSTRY PRACTICES



Sunroof Analysis



SunEye 210





THE RESULTS

Google Project Sunroof



GOING BEYOND SINGLE HOMES



Solar potential data can:

Enable advocacy for solar-friendly initiatives through grassroots outreach and policy-maker lobbying.

Aid government agencies in the creation and implementation of clean energy goals focused, for example, on low-income housing or public buildings. Help elected officials understand the size of the solar market and how much it can grow, so they can make informed decisions about solar.

Help demonstrate the potential impact of new rate structures and regulations on the solar industry.

THE RESULTS





IMPACT

2,000,000+ Sunroof site visitors

2,000,000+ YouTube views

500+ news stories

Including positive press from NYTimes, Business Insider, HuffPost, ABC, NBC, Slate, Forbes, etc.

1,000+ inquiries from solar installers

1 shout-out from President Obama

UN Momentum for Change "Lighthouse" award





Transforming our energy system will surely be challenging. But here is the good news. An analysis of 60 million rooftops in the country showed that as much as 79% of them are viable for solar power. That is enormous potential for sustainable energy. We can go forward to create millions of jobs and lead the world in transitioning away from fossil fuels. Our job is to keep fighting for a system of renewable energy, not fossil fuels—in spite of those who try to hold back our progress.



There's Vast Untapped Potential for Solar Rooftops in the US, Says Google Google's Project Sunroof has expanded its coverage enormously. GREENTECHMEDIA.COM

Overarching vision

Run our own operations as efficiently and sustainably as possible

Develop applications that empower our users to make sustainable decisions