



Photo/Illustration Credit: Cliff Ho and Michael Vittitow

Caption: The land on airports is increasingly being seen as the perfect place for photovoltaic (PV) installations. Many airport sponsors desire solar PV installations so they can operate more sustainably using this renewable energy source. But there's a potential safety issue. Although designed to absorb sunlight, PV panels can produce glare in certain instances because of their glass surfaces. To address this issue, Sandia developed a free, publicly available web-based software tool. The Solar Glare Hazard Analysis Tool (SGHAT) helps select PV array configurations that will maximize annual energy production with minimal glare. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, SGHAT quantifies when and where glare will occur throughout the year, as well as the potential ocular impact.

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