

From: Richard Gill <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 2:13 PM

Subject: Concerns Regarding Large-Scale Solar Development on Farmland and Corresponding Atmospheric Heating

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express significant concerns regarding the proposed large-scale solar panel development on thousands of acres of farmland. This initiative, while commendable in its aim to contribute to renewable energy generation, raises crucial questions about its environmental impact, particularly regarding atmospheric heating and its effect on local residents.

Research published in Nature (<https://www.nature.com/articles/srep35070>) has shown that solar farms in desert regions can cause a 4-5 degrees Celsius increase in local air temperatures. This effect, termed the "solar farm heat island effect," is a critical environmental consideration. Moreover, it's plausible to believe that this heating effect could be more pronounced in areas where solar panels replace vegetation, which naturally cools the environment through processes like evapotranspiration.

Given these findings, it is imperative that the developers provide comprehensive evidence to address the following concerns:

Extent of Atmospheric Heating: What are the projected increases in local air temperatures due to the proposed solar farm, especially considering the replacement of vegetative land cover? Detailed climatic impact assessments should be conducted to understand the extent of this heating effect.

Impact on Local Residents: How will this increase in temperature affect the local residents and ecosystem? It is vital to evaluate the potential health and environmental implications of higher local temperatures, especially during the summer months.

Balance of CO2 Reductions vs. Heating Effect: Does the expected reduction in CO2 emissions from the solar farm justify the potential increase in local air temperatures? It is essential to weigh the benefits of CO2 reduction against the possible adverse effects of atmospheric heating.

In conclusion, while the transition to renewable energy is a critical component of our environmental strategy, it should not be pursued without a thorough understanding of the potential negative impacts. The proposed solar farm development warrants a comprehensive evaluation to ensure that its environmental benefits do not come at the expense of local ecosystems and communities.

Sincerely,

Richard Gill

Please note that the contents of this email and any attachments are privileged and/or confidential and intended solely for the use of the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient of this email and its attachments, you must take no action based upon them, nor must you copy or show them to anyone. Please contact the sender if you believe you have received this email in error and then delete this email from your system.

Recipients should note that e-mail traffic on Planning Inspectorate systems is subject to monitoring, recording and auditing to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The Planning Inspectorate has taken steps to keep this e-mail and any attachments free from viruses.

It accepts no liability for any loss or damage caused as a result of any virus being passed on. It is the responsibility of the recipient to perform all necessary checks.

The statements expressed in this e-mail are personal and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the Inspectorate.

DPC:76616c646f72

