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HOW MUCH LAND DOES YOUR ELECTRICITY USE?

Land Use per Megawatt-hour of Electricity

One megawatt-hour of electricity can power the average US home for one month. Onshore wind could power roughly four homes with the same area as an NBA basketball court whereas nuclear could do the same in the space that 5 basketballs take up.

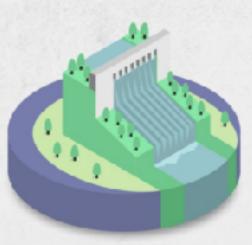


Nuclear uses 70X less land

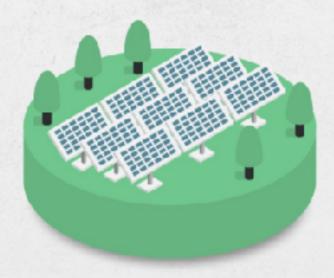
compared to coal with carbon

capture and ~60X less than Solar PV





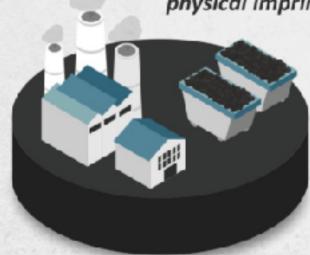
HYDROPOWER (> 660MW) 14m² No matter the source, land is needed to generate electricity society needs. For direct comparison, here the entire lifecycle – from the mines for the materials and fuels, the producing plant, connecting infrastructure, to the end of life waste management – is taken into consideration.



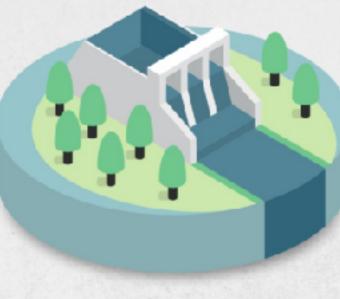
SOLAR PV 19m²



The mining of coal has a large physical imprint



COAL POWER + CCS 21m²



(< 360MW)

33m²



99m²

While the total project site for onshore wind is large, the land in between can be multipurpose



SOURCES:

Our World in Data https://ourworldindata.org/land-use-per-energy-source



