

Sunlight Energy vs. Energy Consumption

SUNLIGHT ENERGY FALLING ON THE EARTH

342 sunlight watts per m ²	Kiehl JT, Trenberth, Kevin, 1997 "Earth Annual Global Mean Energy Budget", Bulletin of American Meteor. Assn 78
342 Joules/sec per m ²	1 watt (power)=1 joule (energy)/sec <i>(the total solar radiation arriving at the atmosphere is ~1361 watts/m². However, not all reaches the surface and not all is visible light.) Coddington, O.; Lean, J. L.; Pilewskie, P.; Snow, M.; Lindholm, D. (22 August 2016). "A Solar Irradiance Climate Data Record". Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society. 97 (7</i>
30% reflected back	6% atmosphere, 20% cloud, 4% earth
12756200 meters	Earth diameter - cross-section
1.27805E+14 m ²	Earth cross section area
3.05965E+16 Joules per second (Watts)	Sunlight power (Energy per time) falling on the earth

WORLD ENERGY CONSUMPTION

599.378 quadrillion BTU per year	2018 world power consumption (energy over time). Http://eia.gov
5.99378E+17 BTU per year	
1055 Joules per BTU	
6.32344E+20 Joules per year	
365 days per year	
24 hr per day	
60 min per hour	
60 seconds per minute	
2.00515E+13 Joules per second (Watts)	World "energy" consumption

1,526

Ratio of sunlight to world consumption

If 100% useable

The sunlight energy falling on the world is 1,526 times the world energy consumption

EARTH INTERNAL HEAT

4.70E+13 Watts	Davies, J. H., & Davies, D. R. (2010). Earth's surface heat flux. Solid Earth, 1(1), 5–24.
1 Joules per watt	
4.70E+13 Joules per second	

2.34

Ratio of Earth's heat to world consumption

If 100% useable

The amount of internal Earth heat energy is 2 times the world energy consumption

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UNITED STATES

9,833,520 surface area - km ²	USA surface area
2.35E+15 Joules per second	sunlight falling on USA if full 24 hr.
78% reduction for sunlight angle	39 degrees latitude
1.83E+15 Joules per second	If 100% useable
92.943 Quadrillion BTU per year	USA power (energy over time) consumption - 2018 (EIA.GOV)
9.2943E+16 BTU per year	
1055 Joules per BTU	
9.80549E+19 Joules per year	
365 days per year	
12 hr per day	
60 min per hour	
60 seconds per minute	
6.2186E+12 USA Joules per second	USA power consumption
294	Ratio of sunlight to USA consumption
0.34%	If 100% useable
33,431 Km ² of sunlight equal to USA consumption - about size of Maryland	

The amount of sunlight energy falling on the USA is 294 times its consumption and about equal to that falling on Maryland - pretty impressive. But there's another way of looking at it - if you controlled all the energy used in the US, you only control the state of Maryland compared with the sunlight falling on the whole country.

However, the average solar farm output is 200,000 watts per acre

200,000 Watts per acre	Actual output of a solar farm
31,092,994 acres	Needed to supply USA consumption from solar alone
125,829 km ²	Needed to supply USA consumption from solar alone
1.3%	of USA land area

Based on actual solar farm output, the whole state of Mississippi would be necessary To supply USA consumption.