

Q&A Transcript for Modeling Utility-scale Photovoltaic Projects in SAM Webinar

August 23, 2023

Is there a way to import near shading geometry or does that modelling have to happen within SAM?

You can draw a shading scene in the 3D Shade Calculator, and you can import shading data from so

What financial model would you recommend for evaluating a utility scale solar system?

For a basic case of evaluating a utility scale plant with an agreed upon Power Purchase Agreement

Is there a good way to use SAM to determine an optimal GCR or inter row spacing?

The parametrics feature in SAM could be used to modify GCR in order to determine the optimal ene

What is the total module area based on? Does it account for central inverters or is it just if all of the modules were directly next to each other?

The total module area just the area of modules themselves. You can account for additional area f

What if instead of a desired array size, I have a specified number of modules I'd like to use?

Clear the estimate Subarray 1 configuration checkbox to specify the number of modules per string

Can I do a subarray for a rooftop and a subarray for a facade in the same file? ie Subarray 1 is rooftop with 20 deg tilt and subarray 2 is facade with 90 deg tilt

Yes, you can specify a different tilt angle for each subarray.

What settings do you suggest for 1-axis trackers for the Calculated system layout? (# of rows/lengths of side etc)? Or is that even applicable?

That depends on your system design. If you are modeling self shading you'll want to set up the i

What time intervals does the time series allow? I would like 5 minute data with uncertainty.

SAM is able to model subhourly time series such as 1 minute and 5 minute data. SAM determines th