

Economic analysis of Bifacial PV Systems

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What is the value of enhanced yield?

- Current 30% ITC improves the value of yield by almost 50%. This impact combine with relatively higher labor costs are the drivers behind the US market's willingness to pay more for yield (e.g. trackers).
- Higher PPA pricing will increase this capex escalation tolerance.
- 30% ITC drives nearly 50% of this capex escalation tolerance.
- Promising implications for MLPE particularly when synergy with bifacial is considered.

\$/W_{dc} price increase for equivalent NPV*

Annual Yield Increase	ITC (PPA held fixed at \$25/MWh escalating at 2%)				
	30% (2019)	26% (2020)	22% (2021)	10% (2022)	0% (Non-US)
1%	\$0.014	\$0.014	\$0.013	\$0.011	\$0.010
2%	\$0.029	\$0.027	\$0.026	\$0.023	\$0.020
3%	\$0.043	\$0.041	\$0.039	\$0.034	\$0.031
4%	\$0.057	\$0.054	\$0.052	\$0.045	\$0.041
5%	\$0.072	\$0.068	\$0.065	\$0.056	\$0.051
6%	\$0.086	\$0.082	\$0.078	\$0.068	\$0.061
7%	\$0.101	\$0.095	\$0.091	\$0.079	\$0.071
8%	\$0.115	\$0.109	\$0.104	\$0.090	\$0.081
9%	\$0.129	\$0.123	\$0.116	\$0.101	\$0.092

*Total installed price omitted due to confidentiality concerns

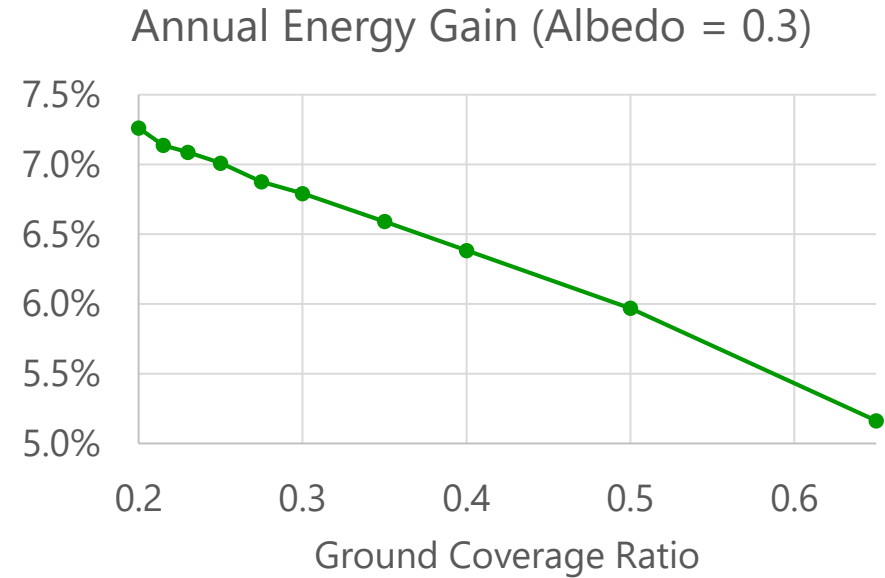
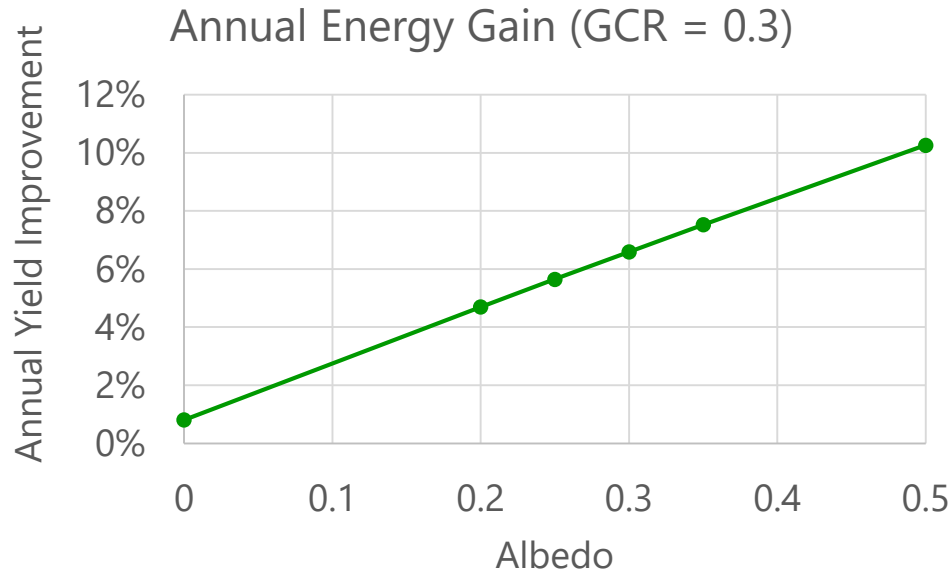
What is the $\$/W_{dc}$ adder for a bifacial system?

Consideration	$\$/W_{dc}$ Adder	Notes
Module Price	\$0.025	Likely to fall to $< \$0.02/W_{dc}$ by 2020 and beyond.
Tax	\$0.002	7% on module price
Contingency	\$0.001	4.6% on module price
Efficiency Penalty	\$0.004	~10W frontside efficiency penalty due to red light transmission
Potential EPC adder	\$0.004	Performance testing complexity may add time and induce indirect costs
Lower DC:AC Ratio	\$0.013	Reduced per watt amortization while maintaining same inverter count
Owner contingency	\$0.006	\$0.002 (driven by EPC and panel price increase), \$0.004 reduced amortization interconnection cost due to smaller system.
Development costs	\$0.007	Reduced Amortization
Induced small size benefits	-\$0.002	Shorter duration, lower construction risk. No area related benefits because we assume that GCR will decrease.
SUM	\$0.06	

Total $\$/W_{dc}$ impact is $> 2x$ the price premium for bifacial modules

Assumptions used in analysis:

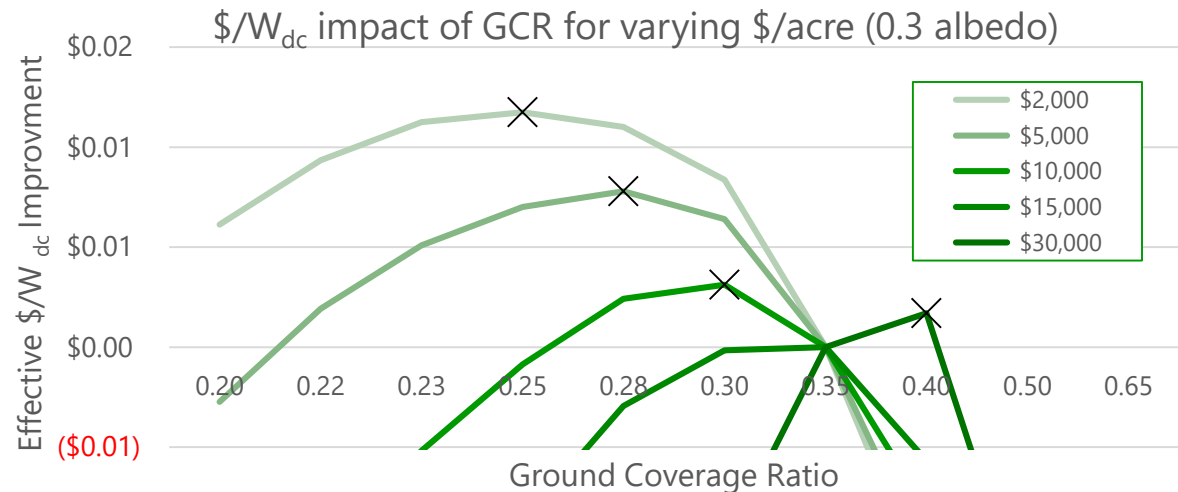
Assumptions: Tracking, Desert Southwest US, DC:AC ratio = 1.0



A 6 ¢/W bifacial adder, albedo >0.1 may still justify bifacial adoption for GCR < 0.35

Bifacial drives GCR below 0.3 for typical land costs

- Strong function of land value but strong yield drop-off above 0.35 GCR due to both front and rear irradiance losses suggests an optimum $GCR \leq 0.3$ except for very high land costs.
- Sharply negative above 0.35 for typical land costs (\$5k-\$15k/acre).
- Between 0.28-0.30 GCR there is a relatively flat optimum suggesting perhaps erroring on the higher side of this range to minimize the layout change relative to an optimized monofacial site (typically around 0.35-0.4 GCR).



Sensitivity calculated relative to a base case of 0.35 GCR and assuming 1% energy increase allows for a 1.4¢/W installation increase for equivalent NPV.

Comparison to horizontal tracking:

	Horizontal Tracker (2013)	Bifacial (2019)
Energy Increase	~20%	~10%
Price Increase	~\$0.10-0.20/W	~\$0.05/W
Investment Tax Credit	30%	30%
Ideal Resource	High DNI	High Albedo
Enabling Technology	Monofacial PV Systems	Glass/Glass, PERC
Optimization	GCR, DC:AC	GCR, DC:AC, System Optics
Performance Risk	Uptime and Tracking Accuracy	Modeling Uncertainty

Economic driver for bifacial at least as strong as tracking.
Will adoption rates reflect this?