

NREL calculates emissions and costs of power plant cycling necessary for increased wind and solar

September 24 2013

New research from the Energy Department's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) quantifies the potential impacts of increasing wind and solar power generation on the operators of fossil-fueled power plants in the West. To accommodate higher amounts of wind and solar power on the electric grid, utilities must ramp down and ramp up or stop and start conventional generators more frequently to provide reliable power for their customers – a practice called cycling.

The study finds that the [carbon emissions](#) induced by more frequent [cycling](#) are negligible (

Citation: NREL calculates emissions and costs of power plant cycling necessary for increased wind and solar (2013, September 24) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-09-nrel-emissions-power-solar.html>

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