Local vs. Global: The great fall in California solar power costs

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Abstract

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*I would like to thank jesus...

1 Solar power in California

In figure 2 a jitter plot representing installations of solar power systems per year. The average price is decreasing the variance appears also to be decreasing the last several years. The bands indicate some structural reason for

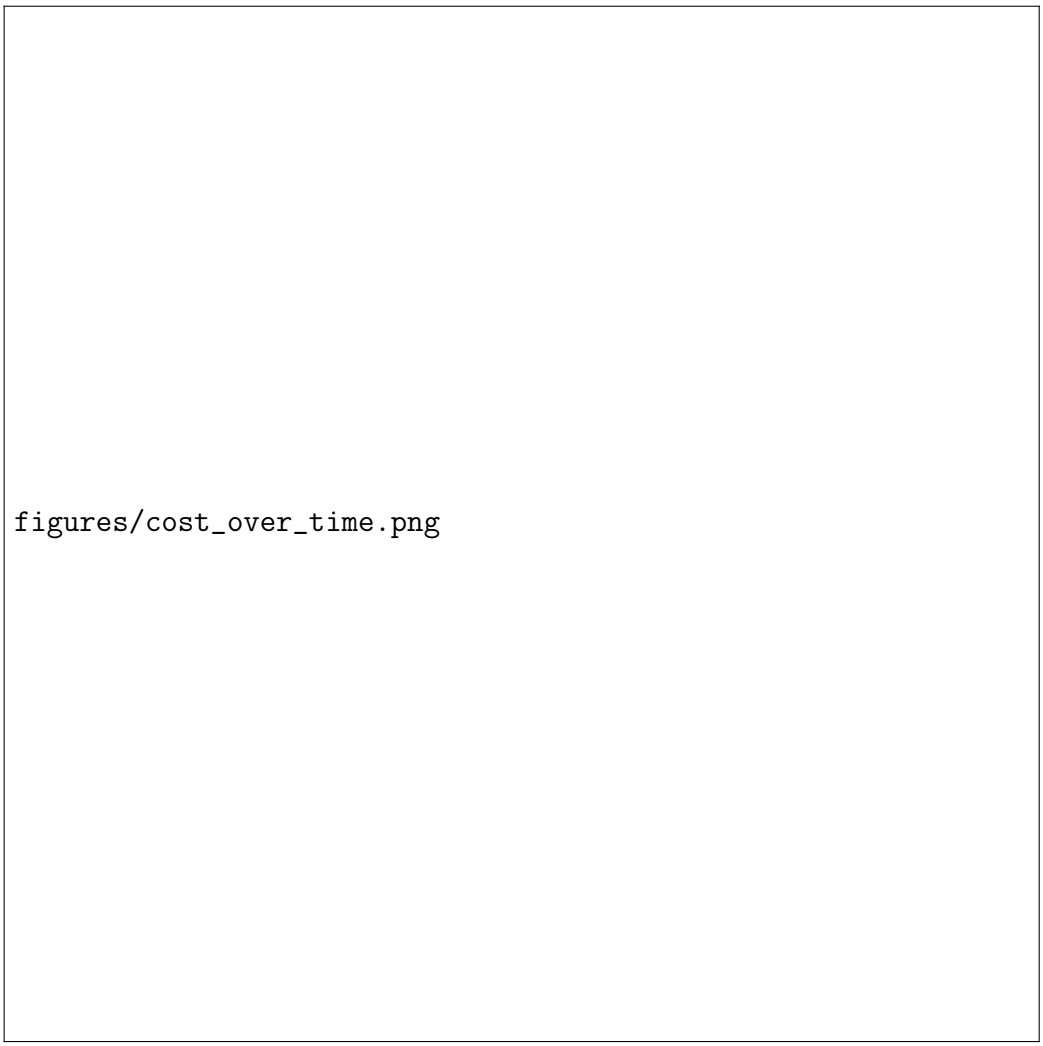

Figure 1: The cost of solar power systems have fallen dramatically over the time period studied. Subsidies have been reduced in kind, however installations have continued a general upwards trend.

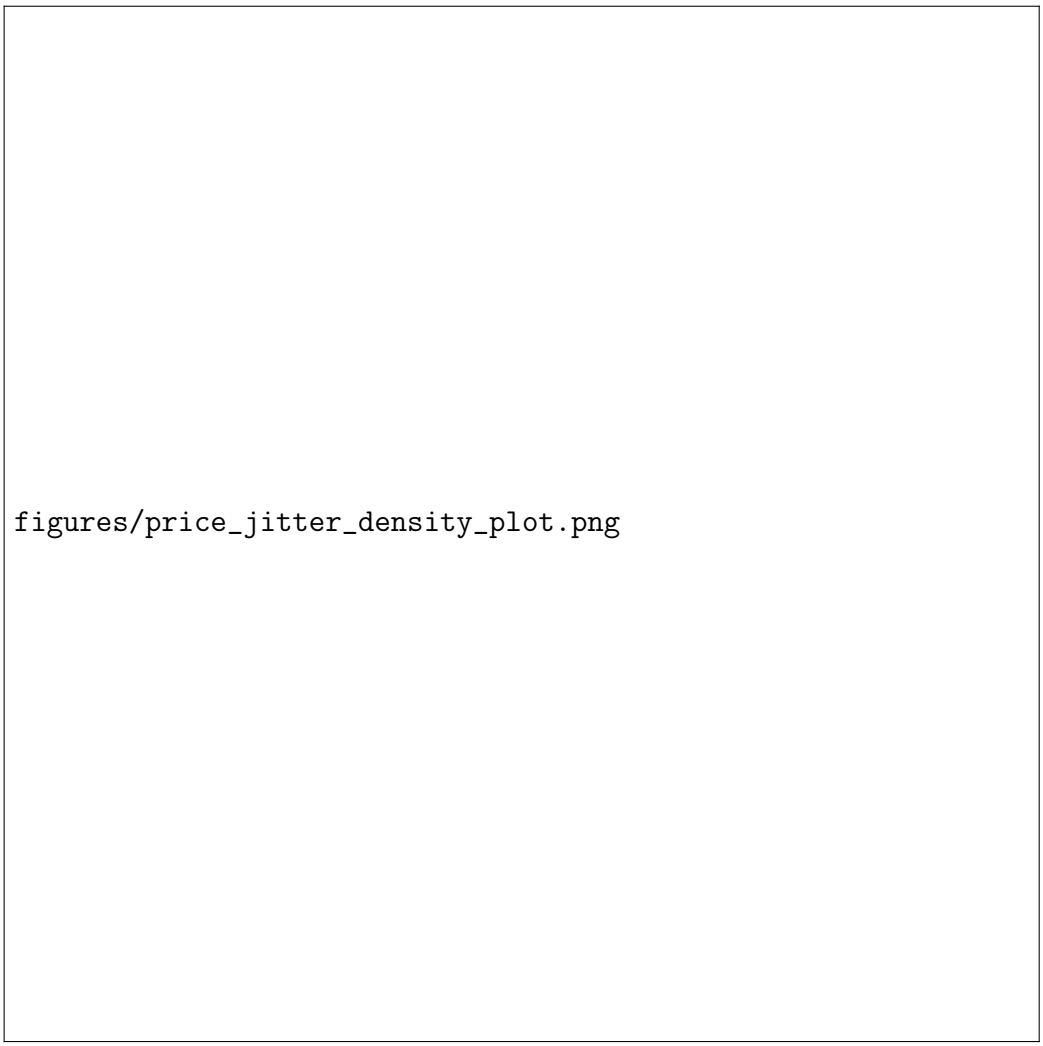

Figure 2: The average price of solar power projects has fallen but the variance of prices also appears to have fallen over the last several years. The bands indicate certain structural reasons for certain price points in the market.

Figure 3 shows a smoothed density plot of costs of solar power installations per year. It appears that the distribution of prices initially widened as the market expanded, but that eventually prices began to converge.

Figure 4 shows a histogram of the installations per year. Clearly certain narrow categories of cost per KW contained an overweight of the number of solar systems installed. This was especially true in the latter several years in which these spikes moved toward the center of the distribution.

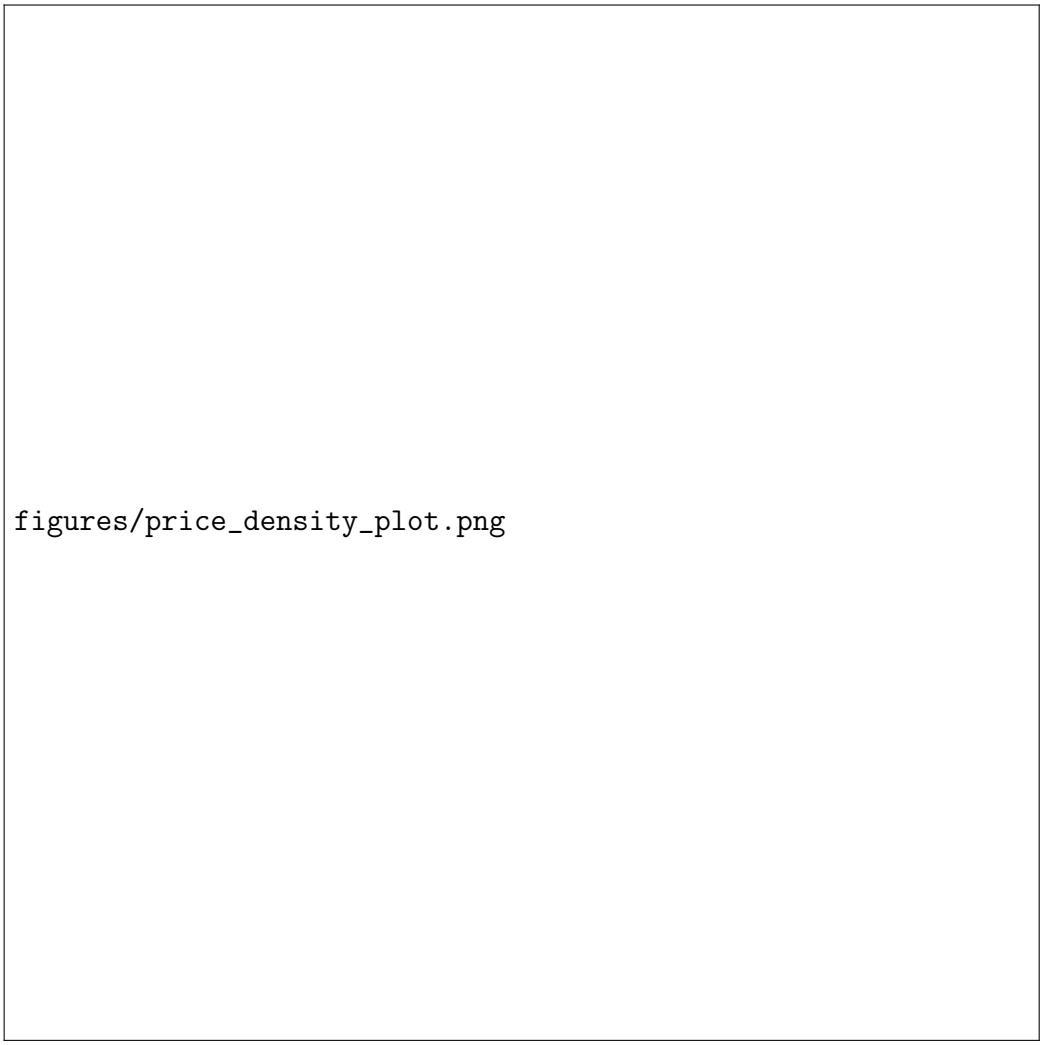

Figure 3: The cost of solar power systems have fallen dramatically over the time period studied. Subsidies have been reduced in kind, however installations have continued a general upwards trend.

Figure 4: The histogram of installations by per KW cost confirms the prescence of an overweight of certain narrow bins of panels of a certain price per kw.