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(54) **EARTH MOUNT UTILITY SCALE
PHOTOVOLTAIC ARRAY WITH EDGE
PORTIONS RESTING ON GROUND
SUPPORT AREA**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A solar array includes PV modules arranged in adjacent/abutting rows, some lying flat on the ground with an interstitial layer between the modules and ground. There is no intermediate structure between the modules and interstitial layer. An end curb member may provide support and increase positional stability of the module group. Methods include providing an interstitial layer on the ground and supporting PV modules on it without an intermediate structure. The method may control lateral movement of PV modules, cooling them, and positioning them at a predetermined proximity for limited lateral and vertical movement. In some embodiments, the interstitial layer consists essentially of a membrane or geosynthetic material, such as geo-membrane plastics or geo-materials. The PV modules may rest on native topography or a smoothed/flat portion of the ground through the interstitial layer.

