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Extra Credit #2

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My field of study is Electrical Engineering, which although is fairly distant from the study of Landscape Architecture, also shares many connections with it. The first connection I made between Electrical Engineering and landscape is that of power distribution. Power distribution is essentially the act of delivering electrical power from, for example, power plants, to places that need it like houses, businesses, schools and so on. Electrical distribution networks are usually built up of a “grid” of power plants, power lines, substations and customers, which span across a landscape. The reason why landscape is significant in this context of Electrical Engineering is that power distribution systems have to be built with knowledge of the landscape it is being built in mind. What I mean by this is if a power line is being built between two cities, the designers of the line must pay attention to the landscape that is already there, for example it could be farm land, an airport, or some natural boundary like mountains or a river. With knowledge of the landscape in mind, they can design the line to avoid places like the mountains, and to go around already established human-made landscapes like an airport. Another connection I made between Electrical Engineering and landscape is the placement and design of power plants, especially hydroelectric, solar and wind power plants. The reason why landscape is so important in this context of Electrical Engineering is that location-that is landscape- is everything for power plants. If you are trying to build a hydroelectric plant, it is essential that the plant be located in a landscape that contains a river that not only can be built on, but that can produce enough power. So in general the study of landscape is helpful as it can determine appropriate landscapes to build on. Another for this context is locating landscapes to put solar power generation plants. Solar plants require two primary things: a large amount of land, and high average sun exposure throughout the year. Having an understanding of landscape and being able to analyze it using tools like GIS can locate perfects landscapes to build solar power plants, many of which end up being in places like southern deserts where land is cheap and plentiful, and the sun shines brightly all year around (a logical choice from a landscape-studies point of view).