# Government-backed solar geoengineering spurs green tech and crypto market shifts



Recent discussions surrounding government initiatives to "dim the sun" have ignited widespread curiosity and concern, particularly in relation to solar geoengineering projects such as solar radiation management (SRM). These methods aim to combat climate change by reflecting sunlight away from the Earth through techniques like stratospheric aerosol injection. Reports indicate that the U.S. government, through agencies like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has been funding research into these controversial projects since at least 2021. While many of these initiatives remain theoretical or in nascent research stages, they have captured significant media attention due to their potential global implications.

The urgency behind geoengineering discussions is underscored by a backdrop of growing climate-related threats. Current scientific assessments warn that unregulated solar geoengineering could exacerbate existing ecological challenges, leading to unintended climatic consequences such as intensified droughts and hurricanes. As such, experts advocate for a robust international governance framework to navigate the associated geopolitical risks. The failure of substantive global collaboration in the past raises questions about how nations can coordinate effective management of these technologies, which might inadvertently escalate international tensions.

From a financial perspective, the implications of government-backed geoengineering initiatives are already visible in the stock and cryptocurrency markets. Notably, sectors associated with environmental technology are witnessing fluctuations tied to broader news cycles regarding climate solutions. Data as of November 10, 2023, reflects cautious optimism within the S&P 500 Index, particularly among green tech stocks like First Solar, which rose by 1.2% on the same day. The relationship between stock market movement and investor sentiment often plays a significant role in shaping capital flows, impacting cryptocurrency assets as well.

For instance, tokens associated with energy efficiency and renewable resources, such as Energy Web Token (EWT) and Powerledger (POWR), experienced notable price increases in the wake of climate-related news. EWT surged by 4.5% to reach $2.18, while POWR gained 3.1%, indicating that traders are positioning themselves for anticipated growth in blockchain solutions connected to climate initiatives. The spike in trading volumes for these tokens suggests a burgeoning retail interest, which is further supported by a 12% week-over-week rise in unique active addresses on EWT.

The interconnectedness of traditional and cryptocurrency markets also raises intriguing discussions around how institutional investors might direct their funds into tokenized projects focused on energy efficiency, particularly if government policies around geoengineering continue to solidify. A recent analysis highlighted that the flow of institutional money into Bitcoin, reflected in a 7% uptick among long-term holders, hints at a broader "risk-on" mentality transitioning from equities into crypto assets.

As regulatory discussions around solar geoengineering advance, the ramifications on crypto-related stocks and ETFs cannot be overlooked. For example, Riot Platforms, a notable Bitcoin mining firm, saw its stock price rise in line with the broader market's appetite for innovative solutions, signalling a potential trajectory where climate policy shifts could amplify correlations between green tech stocks and eco-aware tokens. Traders and investors are advised to monitor these evolving dynamics closely, as the intersection of traditional markets with blockchain technologies continues to present both opportunities and risks for conscientious investors.

The call for a rigorous scientific review and equitable regulation of solar geoengineering indicates an essential shift towards responsible exploration of these technologies. Questions remain about the ethical implications and governance of such interventions in light of emerging environmental challenges. Thus, as both climate change and innovation converge, understanding the responsible integration of geoengineering technologies within global frameworks becomes imperative for securing a sustainable future.

### Reference Map

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## Bibliography

1. <https://blockchain.news/flashnews/solar-geoengineering-news-surge-impact-on-energy-and-crypto-markets-explained> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://dragonflyintelligence.com/news/global-solar-geoengineering-creates-geopolitical-risks/> - This article discusses the geopolitical risks associated with solar geoengineering, highlighting potential adverse consequences for neighboring countries and the exacerbation of geopolitical tensions. It emphasizes the need for international governance and regulatory frameworks to manage these risks effectively.
3. <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.adr9237> - The article examines the challenges in governing solar geoengineering research, noting the collapse of international cooperation efforts and the need for coordinated and responsible research to address environmental and political risks.
4. <https://www.carbonbrief.org/unregulated-solar-geoengineering-could-spark-droughts-and-hurricanes-study-warns/> - This study warns that unregulated solar geoengineering could lead to unintended climatic consequences, such as increased droughts and hurricanes, depending on the hemisphere of deployment, highlighting the need for careful consideration of regional impacts.
5. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/02/27/geoengineering-security-war/> - The article explores the potential for solar geoengineering to trigger international conflicts, emphasizing the need for global discussions and regulations to manage the deployment of such technologies.
6. <https://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/warming-to-a-false-dawn-it-is-time-the-world-regulates-the-sector-of-solar-geoengineering/3439833/> - This opinion piece argues for the regulation of solar geoengineering, citing scientific assessments that highlight the potential hazards and uncertainties associated with such technologies, and the need for a robust, equitable, and rigorous scientific review process.
7. <https://physicalsciences.uchicago.edu/news/article/solar-geoengineering-looks-to-silicon-valley-for-new-wave-of-funding/> - The article discusses the increasing interest in solar geoengineering research, noting that Silicon Valley is looking to fund new initiatives in this area, and highlights the need for careful consideration of the potential risks and benefits.