

Energy budget for open lake evaporation

The energy transferred from the water by the energy for evaporation Q_{ve} equals:

$$Q_{ve} = Q_e \cdot c \cdot \frac{(T_s - T_b)}{L}$$

where c is the specific heat capacity of water (cal/gm/°C) and T_b is an arbitrarily chosen base temperature, in general 0 degrees Celsius, while L is the latent heat of vaporization (590 cal/gm).

Re-combining the first two equations, we obtain:

$$Q_e = \frac{Q_s - Q_{rs} - Q_{lw} + Q_v - Q_{\theta}}{1 + R + c \cdot (T_s - T_b) / L}$$

with Q_s incoming solar radiation and Q_{rs} reflected solar radiation and Q_{lw} net long wave radiation from the water body to the atmosphere, Q_v net energy advected into the lake by flows of water, Q_{θ} change of energy storage in the lake. R is the Bowen Ratio.

As the total amount of energy used for evaporation is:

$$E_o = \frac{Q_e}{L \cdot \rho}$$

where ρ is the density g/cm^3 , evaporation from an open water surface can be expressed in terms of the energy balance components and conditions at the lake surface:

$$E_o = \frac{Q_s - Q_{rs} - Q_{lw} + Q_v - Q_{\theta}}{\rho \cdot [L \cdot (1 + R) + c \cdot (T_s - T_b)]}$$

References Dunne, T. & Leopold, L. B. (1978). Water in Environmental Planning. New York: Freeman and Company.

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