

## FAQs

# Farm & Land Use

### Why is solar developed in open areas?

Solar projects are often developed in open areas such as [unused land](#) and [brownfields](#) that are not generating revenue, in addition to [farmland](#). In fact, a majority of solar projects are developed in rural Wisconsin, providing economic opportunities to rural communities that remain economically challenged.

### How much land is needed to power the entire United States through solar energy?

[Only 0.6%](#) of our nation's land is needed to power the entire country by solar projects.

### Can farmers make money by installing solar panels on their land?

Yes. Wisconsin farmers can save money with solar power, and they can make money by [leasing land](#) to solar projects. In Wisconsin, solar project lease rates range from [\\$1,200–\\$1,500 per acre](#).

### How do solar projects ensure farmers can practice uninterrupted?

Solar projects developed on farmland provide Wisconsinites with the opportunity to farm uninterrupted by the incorporation of solar panels on their land. This practice is known as agrivoltaics. According to [a recent report](#), solar projects are helping keep preserve Wisconsin family farms for future generations.





Bluff Prairie Community Solar Farm  
900 kW | De Soto, Wisconsin  
Source: vernonelectric.org

### How do solar panels impact biodiversity?

**Bird and plant populations** can increase near solar panels. This is accomplished through **initiatives** like seeding and building raised platforms for solar panels, biodiversity of species in the area flourish.

### Do solar panels divert groundwater away from farmland?

No. Solar energy provides an energy source that is not dependent on water. This leaves more groundwater for Wisconsin farmers to irrigate their crops and increase their output. Not only does it **improve water efficiency**, but better protects crops from weather by **drying** them more efficiently, too.

### What do future projects in Wisconsin look like?

A new community solar project—the **Bluff Prairie Community Solar Farm**—in rural southwestern Wisconsin will help make solar power even more affordable and accessible for low-income Wisconsin homes and families. Under the new project, participating homes will see an annual energy savings of \$56 per panel, with homes receiving between one and five panels. The first-of-its-kind program in the state will help alleviate the higher burden energy costs create for low-income households.