

Solar Energy & Farmland - FAQ



Solar **only 0.6%** of existing farmland would be required or 5 million acres of land, out of nearly 1.9 billion total acres of total land in the 48 contiguous states

Solar Futures Study

45% of nation's electricity needs more efficiently with solar power by 2050

What Assurances Do Agricultural Communities Have that the Land can be Farmed in the Future?

Approximately 10% of agricultural land is currently being converted to non-agricultural uses. This conversion is primarily driven by the need for housing and commercial development. While this conversion is necessary for the growth of communities, it also poses a significant threat to the long-term viability of agriculture. To ensure that agricultural communities have the assurance that their land can be farmed in the future, several measures can be implemented. These measures include the creation of agricultural easements, which provide a legal mechanism for protecting farmland from conversion to other uses. Additionally, local governments can play a crucial role in preserving agricultural land by implementing zoning regulations that restrict non-agricultural development in rural areas. Finally, the establishment of agricultural land banks can provide a centralized mechanism for acquiring and managing farmland, ensuring its long-term productivity and sustainability.

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Increases Tax Base for Rural Communities:

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What are Other Local Benefits of Solar Facilities?

Creates Jobs:

Solar facilities create jobs in both the construction and operation phases. The construction phase typically involves the installation of solar panels, inverters, and other equipment. This phase is labor-intensive and provides a significant number of jobs for local residents. The operation phase involves the maintenance and monitoring of the solar facility, which also provides ongoing employment opportunities. Additionally, solar facilities can contribute to the local economy by generating revenue for local governments and providing a source of income for local businesses. The overall impact of solar facilities on job creation is positive, particularly in rural areas where employment opportunities are often limited.

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Improves Environmental Health:

Solar facilities improve environmental health by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. The production of solar energy is a clean and sustainable process that does not involve the combustion of fossil fuels. By displacing fossil fuel-based energy, solar facilities help to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere, which in turn helps to mitigate climate change. Additionally, solar facilities can improve air quality by reducing the amount of particulate matter and other pollutants emitted by power plants. The overall impact of solar facilities on environmental health is positive, particularly in rural areas where air quality is often a concern.

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References:

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