

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, many solar projects are developed in rural Indiana, 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. Indiana farmers can save money with solar power, and they can make money by [leasing land](#) to solar projects. 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 Hoosiers 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 Indiana family farms for future generations.

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 Indiana 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 Indiana look like?

A new solar project—the [Honeysuckle Solar Farm](#) in St. Joseph County, Indiana, located east of the town of New Carlisle, is expected to contribute 188 MW to Indiana’s energy security and eliminate 204,000 MT of CO2 each year. The solar farm will provide a \$30 million boost to the local community over the project life – additional funding for local schools and other services without a tax increase on its citizens. And Lightsource bp is delivering a \$3 million economic development payment to St. Joseph County, to be allocated by county officials as they determine best serves the community. The project is expected to be completed in mid-2024.

