



Policy for installing photovoltaic panels in rural areas



Overview

Solar offers a decentralized, cost-effective solution for regions historically left behind. Incentives Driving Rural Solar Growth The Inflation Reduction Act and USDA programs have unlocked major rural solar incentives in 2025: Combined, these can reduce total project costs. A renewable energy certificate (REC) is a market-based instrument that represents the property rights to the environmental, social, and other non-power attributes of renewable electricity generation. Solar RECs (SRECs) are created for each megawatt-hour of electricity generated from solar energy. As shown in Map 1, roughly 18% of ground-mounted PV facilities in the U. were installed between 2021 and 2023, with a notable portion of these projects built on former cropland or pasture in rural areas. This trend has raised skepticism in rural communities, prompting questions about land value. Neither the United States Government nor any agency thereof, nor any of their employees, nor any of their contractors, subcontractors or their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or any third party's use. While urban centers have dominated early clean energy adoption, rural communities across the U. are stepping into the spotlight in 2025. With ample land, strong solar potential, and new federal funding streams, rural solar development is on the rise. From farms to fairgrounds, small towns to. Solar energy, which converts energy from the sun into thermal or electrical power, is rapidly expanding across America and the world. Solar energy can provide numerous benefits but, like most things, also has its share of drawbacks.



Article Content

Solar Energy Initiatives in Rural Communities

Current policies and funding opportunities support the growth of rural solar energy projects, aiming to address energy poverty and achieve ...

The Use and Potential of Agrivoltaics in the United States

Agrivoltaics are the co-location of ground-mounted rows of solar photovoltaic panels to produce electricity together with raising certain types of crops or livestock or providing pollinator ...

Strategies to Advance Solar in Small, Rural Towns

The Department of Energy's Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas Program provides grants to cities and towns with less than ...

Rural Solar Development: Opportunities and Incentives in ...

With ample land, strong solar potential, and new federal funding streams, rural solar development is on the rise. From farms to fairgrounds, small towns to tribal lands, solar is becoming a critical tool for ...

New Energy Deployment

The new energy deployment programs offer funding and unprecedented incentives to expand new energy deployment, transforming rural power production, create ...

Solar energy implementation in rural communities and its contributions ...

Scalability and Policy Frameworks: Explore scalable models for solar energy deployment in rural areas, with a focus on policy frameworks that incentivize adoption and address financial barriers.

Harvesting the Sun-Twice: Agrivoltaics and Rural Land ...

Currently, there are several ways solar panels can be installed to complement agricultural activities. Fixed vertical or tilted panels provide partial ...

Solar Power in Your Community

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association shares research on how to make solar energy affordable for LMI communities. This page has tools and resources on equitable and affordable solar deployment.

Solar Energy Expansion and its Impacts on Rural ...

This Market Intel will dive deeper into solar energy's expansion and economic impacts, particularly in rural America, where there is great tension ...

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