

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](#). California provides optimal land for solar projects by providing large amounts of open land and sunlight across all areas of the state – providing homes and businesses across the state with a reliable source of energy no matter where they are located.

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. California farmers can save money with solar power, and they can make money by [leasing land](#) to solar projects. In California, 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 Californians with the opportunity to farm uninterrupted by the incorporation of solar panels on their land. [Grazing livestock](#), creating [pollinator habitats](#), or [growing crops](#) that are tolerant to shade ensure that farmers in California can work simultaneously with solar panels they place on their farm – this practice is known as [agrivoltaics](#).

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 California 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 California look like?

Two new solar projects are coming to Riverside County, bring hundreds of jobs and economic benefits. These projects, Arica Solar Project and Victory Pass Solar Project, [plan](#) to power 132,000 homes and generate more than \$5.9 million in tax revenue annually.



Cosmos flowers in front of solar panels
California | Photo captured in 2020
Source: McKinneMike via iStock