

FAQs

Solar Projects & the Community

What is utility-scale solar?

Unlike the solar panels you might see on a rooftop, utility-scale solar power produces larger quantities of electricity to be sold to outside entities. These panels can often be found on large, open areas. The Solar Energy Industries Association defines utility-grade solar as a project that **generates more than 1 megawatt (MW)** of solar energy, which powers a national average of 173 homes.

How does California solar compare to other states?

California **ranks first** in the country for solar energy development and production. There are over 78,000 jobs, 1 million installations, 11.5 million solar powered homes, and \$93 billion in current investments. California boasts the largest solar market in the country – supplying over 20% of the state's electricity.

Where does the electricity generated by solar projects go?

The electricity generated from utility-grade solar projects is channeled **directly** into the electric grid. This can **power** anything from homes, schools, businesses, local governments and more, providing Californians with a cheaper, more reliable energy source.

How do solar projects benefit local communities?

Californians, families, businesses, and local governments save money with solar energy through tax incentives and installation programs, and lower energy bills. Solar projects also support **over 78,000** critical jobs in construction, engineering, operations, maintenance, and more. Local communities benefit from increased revenue, and households and businesses **save money** thanks to tax credits that make installing solar systems cheaper.

Will solar projects harm property values?

No. In fact, homes with solar panels see an increase in value. **Zillow** found that, across the state, homes with solar panels sold for 4.1% more on average than comparable homes without solar power.