

## Solar Storage Container Solutions

# Farmer photovoltaic solar panels



## Overview

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Can solar panels be used on farms?

Installing solar panels on farms helps solve another major problem: finding the space to collect enough sunlight to produce a bounty of electricity. Farmers can help by sharing their land, says Jordan Macknick. An environmental scientist, he works at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, or NREL. It's in Golden, Colo.

Are solar panels a good idea for farmers?

Emerging data, he says, show that even as the solar panels go in overhead, farmers must protect the natural processes that help plants grow. "That can do a lot of good," he says. "Otherwise, it's really hard to cheat nature." Agrivoltaics merges agriculture with photovoltaic panels, which generate electricity from sunlight.

Should agrivoltaic planners put solar over a farm?

Or farm first, and put solar over it?

"If farming is the main priority, she says, then the solar panels may need to be spaced farther apart and possibly be raised higher. Such changes could potentially limit how much electricity those farm fields generate. And agrivoltaic planners may need to treat the soil, Macknick says.

Can agrivoltaic projects benefit farmers?

Agrivoltaic projects can benefit farmers by giving them a second crop: electric power. Or, farmers can pick up some extra cash by leasing their land to power companies that will install their own solar panels on the site. Although the idea behind agrivoltaics has been around for decades, interest among farmers has picked up only recently.

Are solar panels a viable solution to sustainable agriculture?

The integration of solar panels into farming practices not only supports sustainable agriculture but also addresses the growing demand for renewable energy. As the world seeks to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels, solar energy offers a viable and scalable solution.

Are solar panels good for crops?

Jordan Macknick at the Energy Department's National Renewable Energy Lab describes the benefits of bringing solar panels to farms. In many cases, the green crops may actually benefit from the panels' shade. Researchers are studying how all of these factors affect the health of crops.

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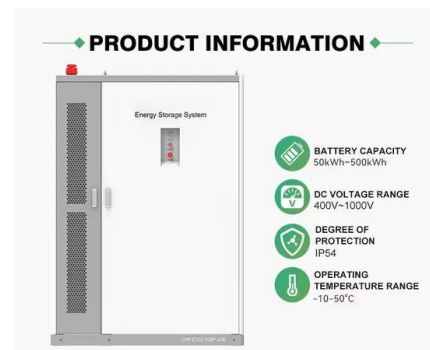


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