

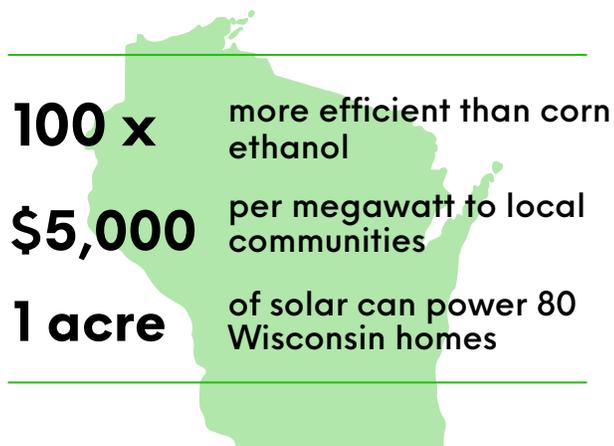
# SOLAR for Wisconsin



Photo by Emma Hamilton

## Wisconsin's solar future

Solar farms are an important part of the clean energy transition in Wisconsin. Along with taking steps to save energy and installing more rooftop solar, we need to build about 3-4 new solar farms in Wisconsin every year to reach a net-zero carbon economy by 2050.



## Why support solar?

- ✓ Cheaper than coal and gas
- ✓ Supports energy independence
- ✓ Safe for our health and environment
- ✓ Provides habitat for pollinators
- ✓ Builds soil health
- ✓ Economic opportunity for farmers and rural communities

## How do farmers benefit?

Many new solar projects are being developed in rural areas. For Wisconsin's rural communities, solar offers real economic opportunity. Solar leases give family farms stable, long-term income in an otherwise uncertain profession, helping diversify income streams and keep families on the land.

## How do rural economies benefit?

Under state law, the owners of large solar projects must pay local host governments \$5,000 per megawatt every year. For a 300 megawatt project, that's \$1.5 million every year for about 30 years. That can help small communities meet urgent needs like investing in infrastructure or emergency services.

## What about our agricultural land?

Wisconsin's farms also produce non-food products, including ethanol. Clean Wisconsin's research shows that, acre for acre, solar farms produce 100 times more energy than corn grown for ethanol. In fact, if we put solar on just one-third of the million acres used to grow corn for ethanol in Wisconsin today, we could meet all our solar demand for a net-zero economy and free up more land to grow food.

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The consistency of solar income is a lifeline.

**Jay Wendt**

onion, soybean, corn, potato and solar farmer



### Support energy independence

Right now, Wisconsin sends \$14 billion out of state every year to import fossil fuels. By capitalizing on a clean, renewable resource that shines down on the Badger State, we can keep more of those dollars here and reinvest them in our communities.

### Support a healthy environment

Solar farms with perennial groundcover allow heavily cultivated land to rest, providing a break from the pesticide and fertilizer use that comes with conventional agriculture. Clean Wisconsin’s research shows that solar farms with native grasses and flowers planted among the panels improve water quality, provide habitat for pollinators, and regenerate soil health.



Strobus Solar Project in Black River Falls, Wisconsin  
Photo from OneEnergy Renewables



**MICHAEL FIELDS**  
AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE



## How to support Wisconsin solar

### Stay informed

Sign up for Clean Wisconsin’s action network by visiting [cleanwisconsin.org/action](https://cleanwisconsin.org/action)

### Submit a comment

When public comment periods for solar projects are open at the PSC, submit a comment.

### Publish your position

Write an op-ed in a local paper supporting solar energy generally or a particular project.

### Attend community meetings

Show up at community meetings, especially if solar development is on the agenda.

### Speak up!

Talk with your friends, family, local elected officials, and social media followers about solar.

### Learn more and get involved

[cleanwisconsin.org/FarmersForSolar](https://cleanwisconsin.org/FarmersForSolar)



Sign up to learn more about solar benefits in Wisconsin!

