

# Solar Parks & Land Use



When landowners choose to lease a part of their land to a solar park, they receive stable, reliable revenue throughout the project's multi-decade life and give their land time to naturally rest. At the end of the park's life, the equipment is removed and the land can return to its original use.

## PRESERVING THE LAND FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

In order to host a solar park, a section of a participating landowner's property will be fenced off and planted with an environmentally friendly seed mix designed for the local climate and soil type. During the typical 35 year lifespan of a project, the land is able to rest and replenish.

Using ag land for a solar park gives heavily farmed land a rest and a chance to recover. This rest period can help boost soil quality and increase local biodiversity, leaving the land recovered and ready to serve future generations after the solar park's life.<sup>1</sup>

After the project is decommissioned, the equipment will be removed and the land can be used for its original purpose again, including farming or ranching.

<sup>1</sup> Department of Energy. "Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. "A Farmer's Guide to Going Solar."

<sup>2</sup> George Washington University Solar Institute. "How much land would it take to power the U.S. with solar?" September 2008.

Compared to other power generating sources, solar energy has a relatively small footprint per megawatt.



The entire United States could be powered by solar energy with just 0.6% of the nation's land.<sup>2</sup>



"My land is very important to me. EDPR hasn't done anything that can't be removed off of the land.

They've planted grass on it to keep it from eroding. They really respect the land and the landowners."

- Walt Pooser  
South Carolina landowner





Solar parks are highly compatible with a wide range of land uses. During the project's lifespan, the park can double as vegetated green space capable of hosting local vegetation and pollinator habitats.

## ROOM TO GROW

A solar park is comprised of inverters, piles, access roads, a substation, and rows of solar panels.

With 10-15 feet of spacing between the solar panel rows, the actual infrastructure of a solar park takes up **less than 40%** of all the land needed for the project.

The great thing about solar panels is that they leave ample room for vegetation to grow beneath them. If the panel area is discounted, **less than 15% of the total project area is occupied by infrastructure that can't also grow vegetation.**



I like that solar is clean, renewable energy. You don't have to worry about going out and checking on it.

EDPR goes out, checks on it, and **keeps the land up.**

- Freddie Mixon  
South Carolina landowner

