#### **SOLAR ENERGY:**

# Powering Local Economies

### WELCOME TO SUNNYVILLE

Explore the town below to see how the economic benefits of a solar park can flow through a community.

#### **PROVIDING STABLE INCOME**

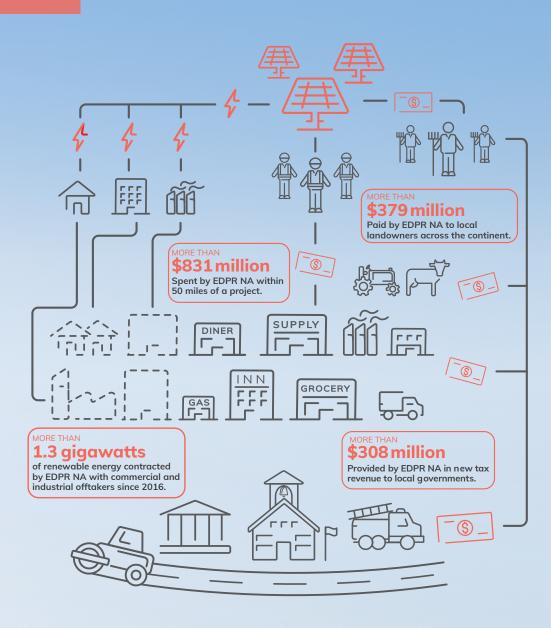
The reliable revenue stream provided by a solar park lease agreement can give landowners the financial freedom to expand their business, save for retirement, or pay for college.

#### **REINVESTING IN THE COMMUNITY**

With the additional income from a solar park lease, landowners have greater resources to reinvest in the community by increasing their spending at area businesses.

#### SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

Solar park construction generates an economic boost for the project area, with hundreds of workers relying on local businesses for food, lodging, materials, and contractor services. Once the project is in operation, the solar park continues to count on local businesses for ongoing maintenance needs, such as mowing, panel washing, and equipment.



Data through 2019.1

#### ATTRACTING GROWTH

Companies are increasingly interested in powering their operations with clean energy at a fixed price. The availability of clean power generated by the solar park can help attract further business development to the project area.

#### STRENGTHENING LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Government payments directly from the solar park, as well as increased economic activity from landowners and local businesses supported by the solar park, help fund essential services such as roads, schools, and fire departments.



"Farming is uncertain – that's different from solar.
Solar is not uncertain at all. EDPR goes out, checks on the equipment, and keeps the land up.

I'd 100 percent recommend solar parks to farmers in this community."

- Freddie M., South Carolina landowner

#### STRENGTHENING LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

When a solar park is built in a community, residents outside of the project's footprint aren't likely to notice it visually. Instead, they'll see the impact it has on the community through local tax payments, which help support essential infrastructure such as schools, roads, and fire departments.

## EDPR NA has paid more than \$308 million to local governments through 2019.<sup>2</sup>

In many project areas, an EDPR NA solar park or wind farm is the biggest taxpaying entity in the county, providing critical funding to services relied upon by residents. These payments provide local rural governments the funds to grow, innovate, and enhance the quality of life.

I think any company that comes in to put in solar projects, the tax base they bring in will be a big help to our county's economy.

They can do a lot of repairs on roads and improve the school system, so

#### it's really a big win for everybody.

- Roddy M., South Carolina landowner

#### CASE STUDY

Annual Property Taxes Paid on North Carolina Real Estate Parcels with Solar Projects

A 2017 analysis<sup>3</sup> of North Carolina property tax data from 50 counties showed a nearly 2000 percent increase in tax revenue from properties after a 10-year period of rapid solar park growth.

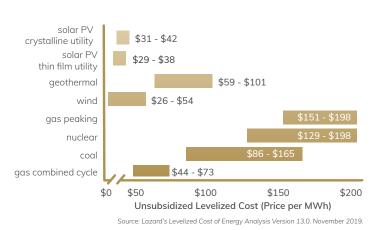
Properties with solar parks paid **more than \$10 million in taxes** the year after the projects were developed, compared to approximately half a million dollars the year before they were built.<sup>4</sup>



#### AFFORDABLE ENERGY HARVESTED ON AMERICAN SOIL

Solar energy has never been more affordable. Power purchase agreement prices have fallen dramatically in all regions of the United States, giving utilities and corporate off-takers access to reliable, cheap energy at a fixed price. These guaranteed rates help keep consumer costs low and stable while also supporting American energy independence.

\$380



\$359 \$320 \$260 Mean LCOE (\$/MWh) Levelized Cost of Solar Energy \$248 Levelized Cost of Wind Energy \$200 \$157 \$116 \$135 \$140 \$79 \$124 \$65 \$80 \$55 \$70 \$59 \$55 \$47 2009 2010 2011 2012 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

Source: Lazard's Levelized Cost of Energy Analysis Version 13.0. November 2019



<sup>1,2</sup> Data last updated June 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> NC Sustainable Energy Association. <u>Increased North Carolina County Tax Revenue from Solar Development.</u> 2019.

 $<sup>^4</sup>$  Data sourced from County Tax Offices, North Carolina Utilities Commission and NCSEA Renewable Energy Database. 2017.