

# FACT SHEET

# **Environmental Benefits of Clean Energy**

Clean energy promotes a cleaner, more sustainable future for our planet by mitigating the environmental and public health impacts of fossil fuel power plants. Our nation awaits the continued powerful, diverse benefits for all.



## Improves air quality

Clean energy reduces reliance on fossil fuels and prevents harmful toxins from being released into our air and water, helping to mitigate widespread environmental and health concerns.



#### **Saves Water**

Unlike coal and natural gas power plants, clean energy does not require large amounts of water for cooling. In 2021 alone, clean energy helped save more than 218 billion gallons of water!<sup>2</sup>



### **Reduces Carbon Emissions**

Clean energy has helped avoid more than 435.5 MILLION metric tons of carbon emissions from fossil power plants in the U.S. That is the same as taking more than 94.6 MILLION cars off the road.



### **Improves Soil Health**

Solar panels provide shade that reduces soil temperature and water evaporation rates, improving moisture retention and reducing erosion. Wind turbines increase air flow around the soil, drawing out carbon dioxide that crops use for photosynthesis.

Address	Office	Web	Date
570 Asbury Street, Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55104	651.644.3400	CleanGridAlliance.org	4/14/2023

<sup>1. &</sup>quot;Photovoltaics & Farmland: How Solar Power Enhances Rural Ecosystems." ACP, American Clean Power Association, Feb. 2023, https://cleanpower.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/ACP\_Solar\_and\_Farmland.pdf.

<sup>2. &</sup>quot;Renewable Energy State-by-State Fact Sheets." ACP, American Clean Power Association, 16 Feb. 2023, https://cleanpower.org/facts/state-fact-sheets/.

<sup>3.</sup> Takle, Gene. "Wind Farms Impact Crops." AgUpdate, 1 Apr. 2018, https://www.agupdate.com/agriview/news/crop/wind-farms-impact-crops/article\_bb057e6c-e58b-5990-b4d5-62640803121f.html.