

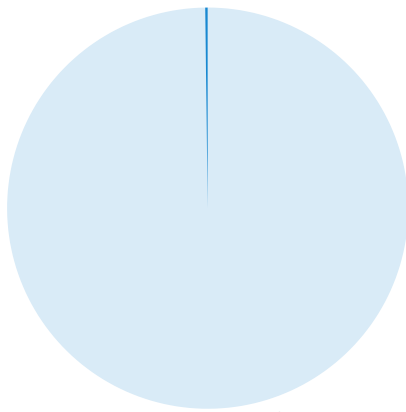
# Iowa Solar and Agriculture

## Solar and Prime Farmland

Iowa is home to about 30 million acres of farmland, about 17.5 million acres of which are considered “prime.”<sup>1</sup>

- Solar farms are developed on prime farmland for a variety of reasons, including access to the electric grid.
- All possible sites should be evaluated to best serve the landowner, the community, and our energy needs.

### Solar vs. Prime Farmland



■ Total Prime Farmland<sup>1</sup>  
■ Land for Solar Projects in the Queue

## For Solar Land Use Perspective...

One megawatt (MW) of solar-powered electricity typically requires between 7 and 10 acres of land.<sup>3</sup>

Iowa has about 4,167 MW of solar in the MISO Queue<sup>2</sup> which would require  $\approx$  35,400 acres of land.

**If every solar project in the queue was sited exclusively on prime farmland, it would only occupy 0.2% of land considered “prime.”**

## Property Rights & Financial Benefits

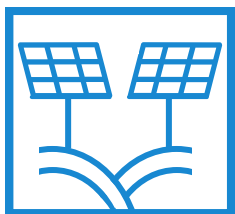
A landowner should have the right to make decisions about how their land is used—and benefit from it.

Solar energy development provides a stable, year-round income through drought-proof land lease payments, without the rising input costs of fertilizer, irrigation, or pesticides.

American Clean Power Estimates

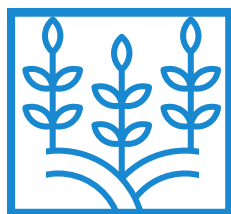
**IA farmers, ranchers, & landowners receive**

**\$4.3 Million**<sup>4</sup>  
in annual land lease payments from solar



**\$658/Acre**<sup>7</sup>

Avg. Solar Land Lease



**\$271/Acre**<sup>8</sup>

Avg. Farmland Lease

**Every landowner deserves the freedom to choose what's best for their land, livelihood, and legacy. Restricting solar on prime farmland takes away that choice.**

## The Production Value of Solar

In 2025, Iowa has 677 MW of solar online,<sup>4</sup> occupying approximately 5,755 acres of land.

At a value of \$48.34<sup>5</sup> per MWh, Iowa's existing solar footprint generates a total production value of approximately \$11,068 per acre, making it among the most valuable land uses in the state.

### CALCULATIONS

#### Solar

Annual MWh ÷ Acreage = MWh per Acre

MWh per Acre \* Avg. electricity price = Production Value per Acre

#### Crops

Yield per acre \* Price per unit = Production Value per Acre

Crop	Production Value per Acre
Solar	\$11,068*
Corn	\$928
Soybeans	\$600
Hay	\$405
Oats	\$303
*Approximate Crop Values Derived from USDA NASS Data <sup>6</sup>	

### American Clean Power Estimates

**IA solar projects have invested**

**\$984 Million<sup>4</sup>**  
**into the state**

## Strengthening Rural Economies

Iowa solar projects have provided \$3.2 million in state and local tax revenue, funding:<sup>4</sup>



**Schools**



**Public Safety**



**New Jobs**



**Infrastructure**

## Sources

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