CLEAN GRID ALLIANCE

FACT SHEET

Illinois Solar and Agriculture

Solar and Prime Farmland

Illinois is home to about 26.3 million[1] acres of farmland, about 19.3 million acres[2] of which are considered "prime."

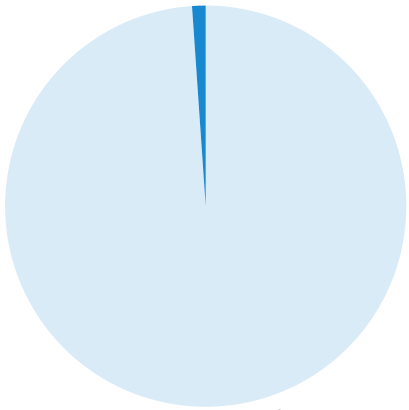
- Solar farms are developed on prime farmland for a variety of reasons, including access to the electric grid.
- All possible sites should be evaluated to best serve the landowner, the community, and our energy needs.

prime·farm·land

NOUN

Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses.

Solar vs. Prime Farmland



Total Prime Farmland[2]

Land for Solar Projects in the Queue

For Solar Land Use Perspective...

One megawatt (MW) of utility-scale solar power typically requires between 7 and 10 acres of land.[5]

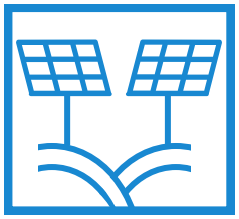
Illinois has about 18,580 MW[3] of solar in the MISO Queue and 6,520 MW[4] in the PJM Queue. Combined, these projects would require ≈ 213,350 acres of land.

If every solar project in the queue was sited exclusively on prime farmland, it would only occupy 0.9% - 1.3% 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.



$900/Acre[9]

Avg. Solar Land Lease

$269/Acre[10]

Avg. Land Lease

American Clean Power Estimates

IL farmers, ranchers, & landowners receive

$21.1 Million[6]

in annual land lease payments from solar

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.

CLEAN GRID ALLIANCE

FACT SHEET

The Production Value of Solar

In 2025, Illinois has 3,277 MW[6] of solar online, occupying approximately 27,855 acres of land.

At a value of $48.34[7] per MWh, Illinois' existing solar footprint generates a total production value of approximately $8,704 per acre, making it among the most valuable land uses in the state.

Crop	Production Value per Acre
Solar	$8,704
Sweet Corn	$2,232
Snap Beans	$1,839
Pumpkins	$1,342
Corn	$933
Soybeans	$659

*Approximate
Crop Values Derived from USDA NASS Data [8]

CALCULATIONS

Solar
(2023 MWh[11] * 2025 MW Capacity) ÷ 2023 MW Capacity[11] = 2025 MWh
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

American Clean Power Estimates

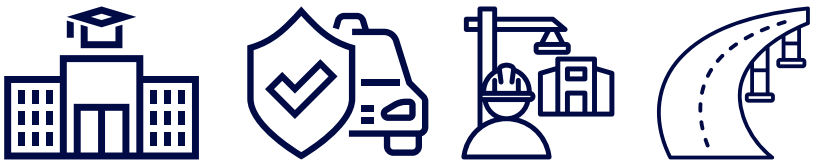
IL solar projects have invested

$4.8 Billion[6]

into the state

Strengthening Rural Economies

Illinois solar projects have provided $15.9 million[6] in state and local tax revenue, funding:



Schools | Public Safety | New Jobs | Infrastructure

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