

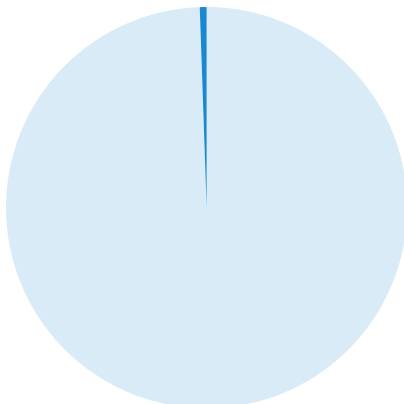
# Wisconsin Solar and Agriculture

## Solar and Prime Farmland

Wisconsin is home to about 14 million acres<sup>1</sup> of farmland, about 6.3 million acres<sup>2</sup> 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.

### Solar vs. Prime Farmland



■ Total Prime Farmland<sup>2</sup>  
■ Land for Solar Projects in the Queue

## For Solar Land Use Perspective...

One megawatt (MW) of utility-scale solar power typically requires between 7-10 acres of land<sup>4</sup>

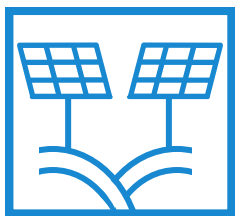
Wisconsin has about 4,041 MW of solar in the MISO Queue<sup>3</sup> which would require  $\approx$  34,349 acres of land.

**If every solar project in the queue was sited exclusively on prime farmland, it would only occupy 0.45% - 0.64% of land considered “prime.”**

## Property Rights & Financial Benefits

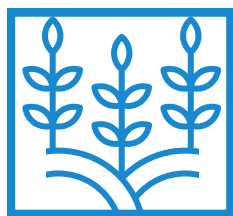
A landowner should have the right to make decisions about how their land is used—and benefit from it.

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.



**\$850/Acre<sup>8</sup>**

Avg. Solar Land Lease



**\$259/Acre<sup>9</sup>**

Avg. Irrigated Cropland Lease

American Clean Power Estimates

**WI farmers, ranchers, & landowners receive**

**\$15.3 Million<sup>5</sup>**

**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.

## The Production Value of Solar

In 2025, Wisconsin has 2,374 MW<sup>5</sup> of solar online, occupying approximately 20,179 acres of land.

At a value of \$48.34<sup>6</sup> per MWh, Wisconsin's existing solar footprint generates a total production value of approximately \$4,408 per acre, making it among the most valuable land uses in the state.

Solar CALCULATIONS	
<b>Solar</b>	
$(2023 \text{ MWh}^{10} * 2025 \text{ MW Capacity}) \div 2023 \text{ MW Capacity}^{10} = 2025 \text{ MWh}$	
$\text{MWh} \div \text{Acreage} = \text{MWh per Acre}$	
$\text{MWh per Acre} * \text{Avg. electricity price} = \text{Production Value per Acre}$	
<b>Crops</b>	
$\text{Yield per acre} * \text{Price per unit} = \text{Production Value per Acre}$	

Crop	Production Value per Acre
Cranberries	\$11,144
<b>Solar</b>	<b>\$4,408*</b>
Pumpkins	\$2,912
Cucumbers	\$2,328
Corn	\$766
Hay	\$448
*Approximate Crop Values Derived from USDA NASS Data <sup>7</sup>	

**American Clean Power Estimates**

**WI solar projects have invested**

**\$3.5 Billion<sup>5</sup>**

**into the state**

## Strengthening Rural Economies

Wisconsin solar projects have provided \$11.5<sup>5</sup> million in state and local tax revenue, funding:



**Schools**



**Public Safety**



**New Jobs**



**Infrastructure**

## Sources

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