

FAQs

Farm & Land Use

Why is solar developed in open areas?

Solar projects are often developed in open areas such as [unused land](#), [brownfields](#), and [farmland](#) that are not generating revenue. Texas provides optimal land for solar projects by providing large amounts of open land and sunlight across all areas of the state – providing homes and businesses across the state with a reliable source of energy no matter where they are located.

How much land is needed to power the entire United States through solar energy?

[Only 0.6%](#) of our nation's land is needed to power the entire country by solar projects.

Can farmers make money by installing solar panels on their land?

Yes. Texas farmers can save money with solar power, and they can make money by leasing land to solar projects. In central Texas, solar project lease rates range from [\\$400-\\$600 per acre](#).





How do solar projects ensure farmers can practice uninterrupted?

Solar projects developed on farmland provide Texans with the opportunity to farm uninterrupted by the incorporation of solar panels on their land. [Grazing livestock](#), creating [pollinator habitats](#), or [growing crops](#) that are tolerant to shade ensure that farmers in Texas can work simultaneously with solar panels they place on their farm – this practice is known as [agrivoltaics](#).

How do solar panels impact biodiversity?

[Bird and plant populations](#) can actually increase near solar panels. This is accomplished through [initiatives](#) like seeding and building raised platforms for solar panels, biodiversity of species in the area flourish. The Texas Parks & Wildlife Service uses [solar panels](#) in their parks to increase biodiversity and save on electricity costs. Solar panels have been installed in over 17 of the largest state parks across the state.

Do solar panels divert groundwater away from farmland?

No. Solar energy provides an energy source that is not dependent on water. This leaves more groundwater for Texas farmers to irrigate their crops and increase their output. Not only does it improve water efficiency, but better protects crops from weather by [drying](#) them more efficiently, too.