Farmers install solar panels

Should farmers build solar panels on agricultural land?

But thanks to years of research, farmers and developers have learned to coordinate their efforts to benefit both parties. It may involve building solar panel arrays about 8 feet off the ground to allow space for crop growth and farm equipment. As of the end of 2022, less than 2% of solar energy projects are on agricultural land.

Are solar panels a good fit for your farm?

Solar panels can increase your operation's profitability. One government grant program for solar panels on farms is called the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). Why solar energy may be a good fit for your farmers and ranchers Tips and funding opportunities for solar projects on your farm

Can solar panels be used on farms?

Installing solar panels on farmshelps solve another major problem: finding the space to collect enough sunlight to produce a bounty of electricity. Farmers can help by sharing their land,says Jordan Macknick. An environmental scientist,he works at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory,or NREL. It's in Golden,Colo.

How do solar panels benefit farmers and developers?

It may involve creating space beneath or between rows of solar panels for crop production, pollinator habitats, or livestock grazing. Setting up solar panel arrays in the past meant sacrificing acres of good farmland. But thanks to years of research, farmers and developers have learned to coordinate their efforts to benefit both parties.

Can agriculture and solar farms work together?

But there is a way for agriculture and solar farms to exist in a mutually beneficial balance: agrivoltaics. Agrivoltaics, or agrophotovoltaics or agrisolar, involves using the same plot of land for agriculture and solar energy production. With agrivoltaics, farmers don't have to give up traditional farm life to reap the benefits of solar panels.

Should agrivoltaic planners put solar over a farm?

Or farm first, and put solar over it?" If farming is the main priority, she says, then the solar panels may need to be spaced farther apart and possibly be raised higher. Such changes could potentially limit how much electricity those farm fields generate. And agrivoltaic planners may need to treat the soil, Macknick says.

Agrivoltaics - the co-location of solar energy installations and agriculture beneath or between rows of photovoltaic panels - has the potential to help ease this land-use conflict. To address climate change, the Biden-Harris ...

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