



Solar power is brightening Ohio's economy

Ohio shines when it comes to sun-powered energy. Our state has exceptional qualities to develop utility-scale solar farms that will meet the energy needs of Ohio businesses and benefit our communities, our schools and our rural landowners.

Surge in solar demand creating conditions for economic growth

The changing energy landscape is driving enormous private investment into Ohio in large-scale, or "utility-scale," solar projects. Solar farms generate enough electricity to contribute directly to the state's power grid.

The growth of solar is accelerating because of demand and a major drop in the cost of solar generation over the last decade, making it cost-competitive with or cheaper than coal, nuclear and natural gas.

Clean energy is an integral part of Ohio's energy mix. Ohio businesses of all sizes and high-growth industries making location decisions have a real and immediate demand for solar power.

"These solar developments will be a powerful and transformational economic engine for Ohio, stimulating growth and opportunity with smart, healthy homegrown energy made by and for Ohioans."

Susan Munroe, Chambers for Innovation and Clean Energy

Geography and transmission network give Ohio an edge

Solar developers have taken notice of Ohio's unique capabilities to support development:

- An abundance of flat land is ideal for harvesting solar power
- A sophisticated transmission network with superior access and growth potential

And yes! Ohio has enough sunny weather to make this form of energy generation a reliable addition to our power grid. On cloudy or sunny days, Ohio generates solar power. Improved technology allows for sun-powered generation year-round, with peak production between late spring and early autumn, exactly when demand is greatest.

Ohio is well positioned to be a national leader in solar energy.



The Utility Scale Solar Energy Coalition of Ohio (USSEC) is a non-profit organization representing developers, manufacturers and industry leaders in our state working to meet renewable energy demands and drive economic development benefiting Ohio's communities, schools and rural landowners. (www.ohiosolarcoalition.com)

Rural Ohio gains the most from utility-scale solar

Solar development will rapidly accelerate economic development opportunities and job creation, especially in rural areas that have struggled to attract investment.

For farmers and landowners, solar leases are lucrative and bring other economic benefits. Developers typically offer reliable revenue significantly higher than traditional crops can produce. Additionally, leases can provide enough supplemental income to allow family farms to remain in the family.

Solar farms are low-maintenance and allow fields to remain intact, free from more permanent development such as dense housing or industrial complexes and the population and traffic that they bring.

For communities, solar farms generate significant income and make substantial annual payments directly to the communities where they are located. These payments support local schools and critical community services.

Projects receive rigorous public review. All of these projects go through an extensive and collaborative process involving the developers, the landowners and the community, with significant local input. This is followed by a thorough review by the Ohio Power Siting Board which is comprised of representatives from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Departments of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, the public, and others.

Power for Ohio!



Good for our economy

Solar projects will generate a massive infusion of revenues to their communities to support schools and critical services.



Good for Ohio jobs

Solar installations will create thousands of good-paying jobs and support Ohio's manufacturing industry. Many of the components are made in Ohio. Let's keep our money in Ohio.



Good for farmers

Solar leases provide rural families revenue, stability and confidence to retain ownership.



Good for the environment

Solar power contributes to cleaner, healthier air. Who isn't for cleaner air?

UTILITY SCALE SOLAR ENERGY COALITION

USSEC
OF OHIO

Powering Ohio's economy and job creation

The solar industry is already creating jobs and providing landowners, workers, towns and school districts across Ohio with income and tax revenue.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

(Estimated by a 2020 study by the Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs and based on the current development scenario over a 40-year period.)

\$18 Billion
in economic impact

54,113
construction jobs

\$67 Million
in annual tax revenues

Benefiting communities



Solar farms currently underway are expected over the next 40 years to generate \$2.7 billion in Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program money for local government entities. Health systems, emergency services, libraries and other critical community services will all benefit.

The PILOT payments result in more local revenue than the taxes they replace. The first utility-scale solar project in Brown County, for example, is expected to generate \$63 million in payments to the local community.

Solar is:

Made in Ohio

Utility-scale solar farms will benefit solar component manufacturers right here in Ohio. A recent study by Ohio University estimates that 30% of the components used in Ohio utility-scale farms are made in Ohio.

Ohio ranks seventh in the nation in solar energy labor force, which includes manufacturing jobs. First Solar Inc. in Northwest Ohio employs more than 1,000 people and is expanding. Of the world's nine largest solar manufacturers, only First Solar is U.S.-based.



Supported by Ohioans

Ohio voter-survey results: An overwhelming majority of Ohioans support solar projects and welcome development in their communities.

- **67%** of Ohioans believe it is important to bring new sources of clean energy to the state
- **71%** believe solar energy is helpful in cutting down emissions
- **84%** believe property owners have the right to decide how their land is used

Helps farmers and landowners

“Solar energy is just another form of farming. This diversification in our operation assures steady income year after year while our agricultural crops are impacted by weather, market forces, trade and so many other unpredictable events. Solar helps to protect my family, my farm and the future for our kids and grandkids.”

Mike Pullins, farmer and landowner in Champaign County



A good neighbor

- Solar farms are easy to screen from sight, minimizing visual impact to neighbors.
- The farms are quiet and don't generate any pollution.
- They allow fields to remain intact, free from more permanent development such as dense housing or commercial development.

