

NEW REPORT



Agrivoltaics in New York State: Framing the Opportunity

THIS REPORT INCLUDES:

- What is Agrivoltaics?
- Incentives
- Permitting
- Siting and Design Practices
- Construction Practices
- Operations and Maintenance Practices
- Decommissioning Practices
- Future Outlook
- Additional Resources

THE VISION: ACE NY supports a pathway for achieving New York State's clean energy and decarbonization targets that includes producing solar energy on farmland in a manner that preserves and improves soil quality, provides ecosystem services, and maintains affordable electricity prices for consumers. Solar energy production is an efficient way to generate electricity in and provide new revenues to rural host communities. Agrivoltaics provides added value by maintaining the status of active agricultural lands.

ACE NY believes that solar energy and farming can exist alongside one another, and each industry can help the other in meaningful ways while supporting individual farmers and their communities. This document was prepared by EDR with ACE NY member input. It is intended to be a resource to the members of ACE NY and other stakeholders that compiles considerations for agrivoltaic development in New York. This document will be updated as needed to reflect emerging best practices, policies, research, and program development.



Read the full
Agrivoltaics
report at
aceny.org



OPPORTUNITIES FOR DUAL-USE SOLAR AND AGRICULTURE INCLUDE:

- Livestock Grazing
- Bee/Honey Farming
- Hay and Grain Crops
- Fruit and Vegetables

The report underscores that agrivoltaics can and should be a tool to support rural economies and keep farmland in production while still providing affordable renewable energy to ratepayers.

Acknowledging the complexities and additional costs associated with agrivoltaic projects, this report offers considerations for stakeholders involved in developing and implementing agrivoltaic projects at various scales in New York State. There is no one-size-fits-all approach, and flexibility is required for cost-effective agrivoltaics strategies appropriate for large-scale and small-scale facilities.

Agrivoltaics present a promising pathway to achieve New York's clean energy goals while preserving production in agricultural lands. Continued collaboration between stakeholders, research and development, educational programs, and incentives will be crucial in realizing the vision of agriculturally compatible solar development that supports New York State's energy and agricultural needs. This document serves as a foundation for understanding and advancing agrivoltaics in New York State, with the potential for future updates to reflect evolving trends and best practices in this rapidly evolving field.

Between now and 2040, urban and suburban residential and commercial development will impact over four times the amount of farmland as solar development. In comparison to these types of development, solar development is a land use that can protect Natural Capital (environmental assets) by providing an opportunity for agricultural soils to rest. Solar development deployed with agrivoltaics has the potential to further minimize impacts to farmland by allowing agricultural production to continue.



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