



Utility-Scale Solar Fact Sheet

Major Benefits of Utility Scale Solar

Solar farms bring significant economic opportunities to communities where they are built, generating millions of dollars in revenue to support local schools and infrastructure like roads and fire departments as well as creating new jobs in the community and boosting local businesses.

Producing homegrown solar energy throughout America reduces our reliance on foreign countries to meet our energy needs and improves American competitiveness.

Solar is one of the most reliable and cost-effective forms of energy, cheaper than coal, natural gas, and nuclear power. It helps stabilize energy bills and is less vulnerable to price swings. It also helps diversify our energy sources, improving grid reliability and ensuring an uninterrupted power supply if other power sources fail.

Solar farms offer clean, sustainable power that is free from air or water pollution, contributing positively to both environmental health and public well-being. These solar projects also significantly aid in the fight against climate change by providing clean, renewable electricity with zero climate pollution.



WHAT IS UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR?

Utility-scale solar, also known as solar farms, refers to large solar power projects that generate electricity at significant scale. These panels absorb sunlight and convert it into electricity, which is then fed into the grid to power homes, businesses, and communities.

Solar Farm Facts

Solar farms are water-friendly, standing out as a water-efficient energy option compared to fossil fuel power generation, which consumes vast amounts of water for cooling or steam production. Solar farms generate energy from the sun and only use water to keep the panels clean.

Solar farms are a non-toxic energy source, generating clean electricity without emitting harmful air or water pollutants. They also utilize safe materials in construction and operate safely throughout their lifecycle.

Large-scale solar is indispensable for a clean energy grid. Solar farms have advantages over even other forms of solar, such as bulk-purchasing savings, unobstructed access to the sun, and even technologies that allow the panels to tilt towards optimum angles, giving them unmatched efficiency and cost-effectiveness. While rooftop and commercial solar are essential clean energy sources as well—particularly to serve individual homes and businesses—meeting our rapidly growing energy needs with clean power will require building large-scale solar projects in every state.

Solar farms typically have no measurable impact on the value of nearby properties and can sometimes even have positive effects. These projects, similar in height to greenhouses or single-story buildings, are usually no more than 10 feet high and are often hidden by fencing or landscaping.

America Wants Utility-Scale Solar Projects

64% OF AMERICANS SUPPORT SOLAR farms being built in their community.

NEARLY 10 GW OF UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR was installed throughout the U.S. in just the first three months of 2024. To put that into perspective, in 2016, the U.S. only saw a total of around 7.6 GW of utility-scale solar come online that year.

SOURCES

"2024 AP-NORC/EPIC Energy Survey," The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

"American Solar Panel Manufacturing Capacity Increases 71% in Q1 2024 as Industry Reaches 200-Gigawatt Milestone," [seia.org](https://www.seia.org).

"Utility-scale solar has grown rapidly over the past five years," [eia.gov](https://www.eia.gov).

