



Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association

We Move Minnesota Solar + Storage Forward

How Does Solar Help My Community?

Solar provides communities with many benefits in addition to the clean energy it produces. Solar in your community will lead to job opportunities, tax benefits, energy resilience, and much more.

Solar Creates Jobs

- As of 2022, the solar + storage industry employs almost **5,000 Minnesotans**.
- Minnesota added **577 solar jobs in one year!** Ranking our state as **17th in the nation for solar jobs**.
- Solar Installer is one of the fastest growing jobs in the country and doesn't require a college degree.
- These are local, stable, and family-sustaining jobs that are good for MN.



Lowering Electricity Bills



Solar saves community members money and adds value to their homes. On average, solar **saves a household around \$20,000** over the course of its lifetime. And, according to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, every dollar that a solar panel saves on your electrical bills increases the value of your home by \$20.

Tax Benefits for Your Community

DYK: The energy produced by Community Solar Gardens is taxed and paid to your community by the solar developer? Developers also pay "land lease payments" to your city for the land they use to build and host solar projects. These tax benefits and payments often add up to the multi-millions of dollars over the years, which goes directly to your county to fund schools, fix roads, and more.

Solar for Schools

Energy costs for powering Minnesota public schools is the 2nd highest cost for districts, after payroll. The use of on-site solar to reduce energy costs saves school districts—and local property taxpayers—hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. Schools across Minnesota can take advantage of Solar for Schools program funding, helping cover some or all of the costs of their solar systems. Solar also provides unique hands-on STEM learning opportunities for students!



Opportunities for Farmers

- Solar helps increase a farm's productivity and diversify its revenue stream. The uncertainty of crop prices, weather, and more can bankrupt family farms over time. Adding solar to their land **gives the farmer a consistent stream of revenue** to provide economic security to their bottom line. Solar helps keep family farms in business!
- Minnesota has 25.5 million acres of farmland, with only 16.7 million acres considered "prime farmland." The rest do not produce crops and can be used for clean energy.
- According to American Clean Power, **farmers and landowners receive \$8.5 million** in annual land lease payments from solar!
- It's the farmer's right to choose what is best for their land, and solar is a great option.



Grid Resilience For Less Blackouts

Solar energy strengthens the power grid. By producing another source of energy, your town isn't solely reliant on just one coal plant, for example. If a storm, technical breakdown, or more knocks out your one power plant—your community is out-of-luck until the problem is resolved. Renewable energy gives your area options and a backup if things go wrong. Solar + storage prevents outages and blackouts—making our grid more secure and able to withstand our infamous Minnesota weather.

Cleaner Cities

Would you rather have a coal plant or a solar garden in your backyard? Solar is a much cleaner version of energy than traditional sources. Plus, developers often plant native pollinators around and under their solar projects which:

- Reduces water run-off
- Helps bee populations
- Increases the amount of native plantings in Minnesota
- Many different crops thrive under solar panels too!



More Information:

- See the U.S Department of Energy's [Solar Power in Your Community](#) to learn more.
- Check out solar's impact in other communities across Minnesota [here](#).