



# Agrivoltaic solar panels Norfolk Island

What is agrivoltaics?

Most large, ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) systems are installed on land used only for solar energy production. It's possible to co-locate solar and agriculture on the same land, which could provide benefits to both the solar and agricultural industries.

Can co-located agriculture and solar photovoltaic infrastructure improve food production?

In a recent article for Nature Sustainability, NREL's Lead Energy-Water-Land Analyst Jordan Macknick and co-authors investigated the potential benefits of co-located agriculture and solar photovoltaic (PV) infrastructure (dubbed "agrivoltaics") on food production, irrigation water requirements, and energy production.

Are agrivoltaic solar panels better than traditional solar panels?

Results from the study include: Food production Water savings Improved renewable energy production The agrivoltaic PV panels were cooler during daytime hours compared to the traditional panel array by approximately 9°C, allowing for better performance.

Should agricultural crops be co-located with solar panels?

There are both benefits and tradeoffs of co-locating agricultural crops with solar installations. In arid climates, for example, there might be higher yields with lower watering requirements; in extremely wet environments, panel spacing and other factors play an important role in managing on-site water distribution and eventual yields.

How can livestock manage vegetation under solar panels?

Foraging livestock can manage vegetation under solar arrays, which can be considered at the early phases of solar planning and installation by seeding appropriately and raising modules, wires, and electrical boxes. Livestock can reduce the maintenance costs of trimming beneath panels and reduce the need to use herbicide.

Agrivoltaics is a rapidly developing methodology that is intended to get more out of available land by combining PV solar power generation. Due to improved solar cell efficiency and reduced costs, it is now feasible to co-locate solar power generation with a wide variety of agricultural enterprises.

Agrivoltaics elevates solar panels to allow for plant growth beneath them. This reduces maintenance expenses and enhances the efficiency of the solar panels in generating clean energy. Agrivoltaic systems are usually ...

Due to the cooling effect of plant transpiration on the solar panels (Figure 2), there were also marginal improvements to electricity production. The agrivoltaic PV system generated 1 percent more electricity on an annual basis (3 percent increase during summer months) compared to a regular PV system in the same location.



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Agrivoltaics elevates solar panels to allow for plant growth beneath them. This reduces maintenance expenses and enhances the efficiency of the solar panels in generating clean energy. Agrivoltaic systems are usually smaller than big solar farms. Most of them, about 70%, can produce less than 5 MW of power.

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Co-location, also known as agrivoltaics or dual-use solar, is defined as agricultural production, such as crop or livestock production or pollinator habitats, underneath solar panels or adjacent to solar panels.

Discover Agri-PV (Agrivoltaics), the innovative dual-use solution combining agriculture and solar energy production. Learn how Netafim's expertise in precision irrigation, agronomic support, ...

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Farmers who implement agrivoltaic systems can potentially benefit from a new revenue stream through energy production, without sacrificing agricultural output. The electricity generated by the solar panels can be sold back to the grid, providing an ...

The agrivoltaic PV panels were cooler during daytime hours compared to the traditional panel array by approximately 9°C, allowing for better performance. The co-location of PV and agriculture could offer win-win outcomes across many sectors, increasing crop production, reducing water loss, and improving the efficiency of PV arrays.

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Agrivoltaics pairs solar with agriculture, creating energy and providing space for crops, grazing, and native habitats under and between panels. NREL studies economic and ecological tradeoffs of agrivoltaic systems.

Agrivoltaics received a lot of support. Some solar developers believe it is ready for widespread adoption, but most have no experience developing dual-use systems. The primary barrier to identify widespread adoption of agrivoltaics is the increased cost associated with raising solar panels to enable farming and livestock grazing.

