

## COMMUNITY SOLAR

# Frequently Asked Questions: Solar in My Community

### Why is solar being developed on land in rural areas?

As states set new renewable energy goals and allocate state funds to incentivize the development of solar and energy storage, there's a growing opportunity for landowners to create decades of steady income by leasing their land for solar.

Depending on the local utility policies, solar farm projects can either feed directly to the electrical grid or stay within the community in the form of a community solar program.

### What is community solar & is it the same as my utility?

With community solar, a clean energy system owner (separate from your local utility) will purchase power from solar farms, and the electricity can be shared by local energy users. Businesses & residences can subscribe to the solar system for their electricity, typically saving money on their utility bill while also knowing their energy is coming from a clean, local source.

These projects are built on land within the same utility zone as the subscribers, on parcels leased to the system operators by local landowners for a term of 20 – 25 years.

### How much land does a typical community solar project need?

Solar projects are typically sized in terms of their overall solar system capacity, expressed in megawatts (MW), rather than by a specific acreage. One common community solar size is 5 MW, which might require between 20 – 30 acres depending on the site engineering.

These solar farms are located within the community that uses them, and great care is taken to minimize disruption to neighboring sight lines or land use. These are not the large sprawling utility-sized projects that are often seen in the desert.

### What happens when landowners lease land for solar?

First, one of our project developers will work with the landowner to assess their land and provide competitive lease rates. Once the contract is signed, we diligently begin on the project: from conducting environmental studies and obtaining permits, to entitlement and receiving the interconnection agreement from the local utility. We also pair the solar project with trusted system owners, focusing on the right fit for each long-term lease relationship.

### WHY LANDOWNERS CHOOSE BORREGO

- Borrego values transparent and open communication with you and your community.
- Our knowledgeable project developers will guide you through the process of leasing your land for solar, partnering with you to create a reliable, long-lasting financial legacy for you and your family.
- We're also a family-operated business, so we understand the importance of making thoughtful and careful choices for your land.
- From your first meeting with our development team, we are your project advocate, working with local utilities, community representatives, neighbors & permitting authorities to develop and engineer a project that will perform for years to come.

**Contact us today if you have any questions**

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# Frequently Asked Questions About Solar Farms



## Will it ruin the landscape?

Even though community solar farms provide multiple community and environmental benefits, some may think they are visually unattractive or industrial looking. We alleviate these concerns by planting trees and vegetation buffers to improve the sightline for neighbors.

## Will it harm wildlife?

Before a project is built, Borrego performs thorough due diligence on your site to ensure there are no endangered species or sensitive habitats that will be disturbed during the construction or operation of the solar project. We can also work with landowners to plant native ground covers and pollinator- and bird-friendly vegetation at the site.

## Will it impact farming activities?

We work with landowners to locate the solar system so that it won't impact farming operations or existing land use. We don't pave over farmland to install solar; existing vegetation is only trimmed back to avoid shading the panels & impacting the power generation.

## Will it cause construction noise?

These systems take about 4-6 months to build, during which there will be low construction noise. Hours of construction will occur during normal business hours, or whatever is mandated by the township or County. Much of the construction doesn't involve heavy machinery.

## Will the panels cause glare?

Actually, our panels have an anti-reflective coating and the intent of our systems is to absorb as much sunlight as possible, not reflect it. Even on projects located on airport properties where glare is an issue, we submit glare studies to the FAA to ensure that any glare is below acceptable levels.

## Will it impact my property values?

Concern about your property value is understandable, and many mistakenly assume solar farms will reduce property values. In fact, there are studies that show that properties with solar on them can be worth more since the systems generate long-term revenue to the landowner.

## Will the system emit noise or radiation?

While solar panels themselves don't emit radiation, the entire system does emit some EMFs within acceptable levels (0.2 milli-Gauss, which is the equivalent of levels often found within homes.) All of the electrical equipment on-site is grounded and meets NEC and utility standards. Solar farms do not exceed ambient noise levels of your neighborhood.

## Will I lose my income if the technology fails?

No. When you sign the contract to lease your land for solar, you're entitled to full payments for the entire term — so there should be no concern about your lease income. Typically, a maintenance company will be contracted to maintain and monitor your system for performance and repair issues.

## Are the panels made of hazardous materials?

Actually, the panels are covered with tempered glass (like your car's windshield) and have an aluminum frame — which means they're also recyclable when they reach the end of their life. We only use "Tier I" panels that come with 25 year warranties. The actual PV cells on each panel are made out of silicon, the main component of natural beach sand and the second most common element in the Earth's crust. Borrego does not use cadmium telluride modules which are known to have hazardous materials and pose health risks.

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