



Legacy Solar Co-op

We work with vendors and contractors around the state, on projects from residential and **farms** to large businesses. We specialize in community institutions like churches, civic organizations and city and county governments.



Visit our website for full details of over 40 community solar projects already completed with the help of Legacy Solar Co-op!

LegacySolarCoop.org/solar-project-map/

Contact Us

Become a member or learn more about us.

LegacySolarCoop.org

Phone:
608-571-4992

Email:
info@LegacySolarCoop.org



Legacy Solar Co-op

A member owned cooperative providing solar and energy efficiency products and services to Wisconsin.



The Benefits of Pairing Agriculture with Solar

Agriculture and farming are at the heart of what sustains and fuels us all. As we transition to safe and reliable energy, farms are showcasing how solar pairs beautifully with structures, pollination, crop growth and grazing.

**President & CEO
Kurt Reinhold**
Recognized by the
WI Sustainable
Business Council as a
Sustainability Champion
in **2021!**

Agriculture & Solar

More farms going solar means more citizens see that solar energy is a fantastic source for local, renewable, and safe energy. For farms that run tours and programming, solar can be a great addition to show students and adults how solar works and the diversity of what sustainable solutions look like. Community supported agriculture (CSA) farms would not only benefit from their own arrays, but are well-suited to grow solar with member buy-in. Solar projects are opportunities to learn, inform community leaders, advise elected officials and impact research funding.

Pollination

Some ground-mounted solar systems are installed where land is degraded and/or unproductive. When these systems are paired with native vegetation, arrays can enhance the local ecosystem and encourage migratory pollinator health. Voluntary standards for pollinator-friendly solar exist so that more bee habitat can be conserved and benefit crop yields on-site.

Crop Growth

Agrivoltaics, designing solar projects so that crops can be grown underneath, is practical. Light and heat-intolerant crops can be difficult due to increasing temperatures and severe weather changes. Broccoli, leaf lettuce, spinach, and squash are among those that can thrive in shade under panels.



Solar power decreases the adverse effects of greenhouse gasses and trapped heat by producing an abundant supply of sustainable, low-carbon energy.

Green Barns

Barns, farm stands, community garden shelters, workshops, studios and classrooms can work hand-in-hand with solar installations. Positive feedback from farmers and rural landowners who have installed solar power systems on their buildings is abundant, and owners enjoy taking advantage of the energy savings. Many rural buildings are outfitted with metal roofs, perfect for solar, especially when south facing or east/west facing. The opportunities are endless for existing farm structures and rural property to adopt solar. Rural structures with solar will provide grid resiliency to their local communities and offset rate costs. Gas and coal are now more expensive per watt than solar-harnessed electricity (International Energy Agency), making solar the *most affordable energy source in the country*.

Grazing

Sheep are the most common solar grazing animals, and are best-suited as they enjoy panel shade and graze in hard-to-reach places. Vegetation around ground-mounted solar is often mowed so that panels can be serviced if necessary, but can be trimmed at minimal cost with sheep. For the safety of existing, low-mount solar arrays, goats, pigs, and horses are not recommended.

How to Join

It's easy. Join online at:
LegacySolarCoop.org/membership

Lifetime – \$100

A one-time charge per household.
See bylaws for additional household membership information.

Institution – \$250

A one-time charge per institution.

Benefits of Membership

Discounted Services - Services include project development, assessments, and project financing programs.

Access - Meet solar-minded people in your community committed to the vital energy transition.

Investment - Become eligible for our Slice of Sun bond program, earn interest on investments that help nonprofit organizations and others acquire solar energy (*Wisconsin residents only*)

Counter Carbon Use - Counter your home, business, event or travel with solar renewable energy certificates (sRECs) through our Switch-2-Solar (S2S) program

Resources

- coagrivoltaic.org/
- solargrazing.org/what-is-solar-grazing/
- midwestrenew.org/
- couillardsolarfoundation.org/csf-solar-canopy/
- nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/Native-Plant-Management-at-Solar-Sites.pdf

For more, Contact Elise Couillard at
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