



## Overview

Agrivoltaics, which is the [pairing of solar panels \(photovoltaics\) with agriculture](#), is quickly becoming a strategy for states to meet their climate and energy goals. Agricultural land used for growing crops, animal grazing, and farmsteads/farm roads accounts for about [43% of the total land in the lower 48 states](#). Agrivoltaics can create a win-win scenario by offering a unique opportunity to address multiple state priorities simultaneously, including clean energy generation, sustainable agriculture, economic growth, and climate resilience. States are leading the way in allowing for agrivoltaics through a variety of policies.

## Policy Options (\*\* indicates bipartisan support)

- **\*\*Colorado SB092 (enacted 2023)**: Supports agrivoltaics through the integration of solar energy generation facilities with agricultural activities and authorizes grants for new or ongoing demonstration or research projects that demonstrate or study the use of agrivoltaics.
- **\*\*New York S.7861A (enacted 2023)**: Directs the department of agriculture and markets to produce and distribute guidance and educational materials for farmers on the use of agrivoltaics in farming.
- **Washington S.B. 5187 (enacted 2023)**: Requires a cost-benefit analysis be conducted for the use of agrivoltaic and green roof systems on projected new buildings.
- **Maryland H.B.1039 (enacted 2022)**: Exempts certain community solar energy generating systems from personal property taxes and assessed and qualified land that is used for farm or agricultural purposes to have agrivoltaics.
- **Massachusetts H.5060 (enacted 2022)**: Establishes a commission to investigate and make recommendations to remove barriers to developing agrivoltaic projects.

## KEY POINTS

- Utilizing land for agrivoltaics systems has the potential to increase farm productivity by 35-73%. ([Colorado State University Extension](#))
- Solar energy currently provides about 4% of U.S. electricity supply, but it could supply as much as 40% of U.S. electricity by 2035. ([U.S. Department of Energy](#))
- Crops planted beneath solar panels receive protection from harsh weather such as hail or intense sunlight, helping crops to reach their production potential and saving some farms from unexpected crop loss. ([Colorado State University Extension](#))



## Other Resources

- **Colorado State University**: [Agrivoltaics Fact Sheet](#)
- **U.S. Department of Energy**: [Farmer's Guide to Going Solar](#)
- **National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)** - [Agrivoltaics](#)

