

## State of Solar Across the Continental U.S.

Renewable energy continues to grow throughout the United States, with solar and wind power projected to make up 16% of the country's total energy generation in 2023, which is 2% more than last year and has doubled since contributing 8% in 2018.<sup>1</sup> In 2022, half of all new electric capacity added to the power grid came from solar. While a decade ago only three states had one gigawatt or more of installed solar, now, half of the states in the U.S. do. This growth in solar energy is partly due to the rapidly declining cost of installation, which has allowed the industry to expand into new markets, and because many states and corporations are looking to diversify their power generation mix.

Over the next five years, the solar industry in the U.S. is expected to install more capacity than has been installed to date, with an additional 200 gigawatts.<sup>2</sup> The U.S. isn't alone in choosing renewables. Globally, the International Energy Agency forecasts an 85% acceleration in renewable capacity expansion from the previous five years. Between 2022-2027, global renewables are forecasted to grow by almost 2,400 gigawatts.<sup>3</sup>

With the increase of solar development across the U.S., the industry has provided numerous employment opportunities. To date, the solar industry employs nearly 253,000 people across the country, offering well-paying jobs and benefits.<sup>4</sup> Solar projects provide stable income to both participating landowners and local communities. In 2022, the industry has contributed \$739 million in both state and local taxes, as well as lease payments to landowners who have leased their ground for solar development. Not only is solar making a difference on our electrical grid, but it is also making a difference for communities, families, and individuals who make a living from working in the industry.

## State of Solar in Ohio

Ohio currently ranks 22nd in the nation for total installed solar capacity with 1,389 megawatts installed. As of the end of 2022, only 1.04% of the state's electricity comes from solar. The growth projection over the next five years includes 7,782 megawatts, enough to power approximately 1.5 million American homes, which will tremendously surpass what's currently installed.<sup>5</sup>

In Ohio, there are 3 solar projects over 50 MW that are currently generating utility-scale electricity,<sup>6</sup> with 12 more that are either in development or recently approved.<sup>7</sup> Most of these projects are developed by private companies, but so far, all solar farms built or proposed in Ohio are owned by, or sell their electricity to, Ohio electric providers. Ohio utilities are also seeking to diversify their power generation portfolios, and purchase projects like these to serve their customers.

Ohio is one of the top five electricity consumers across the country. With demand as high as it is, Ohio currently imports nearly one-fifth of the electricity it needs each year from other states to meet consumer demand.<sup>8</sup> By adding renewable energy facilities into the state's energy portfolio mix, Ohio can produce its own electricity, and in doing so become more energy independent.

1. <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=55239>

2. <https://www.seia.org/solar-industry-research-data>

3. <https://www.iea.org/reports/renewables-2022/executive-summary>

4. <https://cleanpower.org/facts/solar-power/>

5. <https://www.seia.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/Ohio.pdf>

6. <https://opsb.ohio.gov/cases?caseType=Pending>

7. <https://bricker.com/resource-center/solar/publications/ohio-utility-scale-solar-a-recap-of-2022-and-looking-ahead-to-2023>

8. <https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=OH>



## Other Facts and Benefits of Solar in Ohio

- According to a 2020 study conducted by Ohio University, the estimated impacts of Ohio solar projects over a 40-year term include:<sup>9</sup>
  - \$18 billion economic impact
  - 54,113 construction jobs
  - \$67 million annual tax revenues
- Solar projects support Ohio’s state-wide energy portfolio goals and help guarantee American energy independence by reducing our reliance on foreign sources.
- Utility-solar increases tax revenue generated, leading to stronger school funding, leveled taxes, the potential for better roads, and stabilized funding for emergency services.

## Community Events & Sponsorships

The Eastern Cottontail project team is proud to have sponsored and participated in the following events this summer and fall:

### August 2023

- Tour de Buckeye Lake
- Lancaster Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce State of Fairfield County
- Pleasantville Music and Street Festival
- Eastern Cottontail Community Open House

### September 2023

- Millersport Sweet Corn Festival
- Lancaster Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Outing

### October 2023

- Fairfield County Fair Livestock Sale

### November 2023

- Freedom’s Never Free



### Interested in learning more about solar?

Check out the Common Concerns document on the Eastern Cottontail Solar Website. Link & QR code below:

<https://www.edf-re.com/flipbook/8905>



9. <https://bit.ly/measuring-the-economic-impacts>

For more information, contact us:



**Office Hours**  
Tuesday 5 - 8 pm  
Saturday 8 am - 1 pm or by appointment

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