



ARE YOU IN THE PACIFIC POWER SERVICE REGION?

DO YOU RECEIVE WATER FROM NORTH UNIT IRRIGATION DISTRICT?

If you answered yes to both questions, you may be eligible for grant and loan funding to install solar panels for your irrigation pump, which could reduce your energy costs.

WHAT IS AGRIVOLTAICS?

Agrivoltaics is the use of land for raising crops, livestock, or pollinator habitats, underneath or adjacent to solar panels. These systems can be designed to provide farm machinery access to rows, allowing for the continued use of land for agricultural purposes while also potentially providing a number of economic, horticultural, and ecological benefits.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

Installing solar panels to help cover the cost of pumping can cut down on long-term energy costs for your farm. Agrivoltaic systems may also benefit crops by shading plants, maintaining soil moisture, and supporting pollinators. More research is needed in Central Oregon, however, to test and verify these benefits in our particular region.

HOW DOES IT WORK

The goal of agrivoltaics is to cover much of the annual cost of electricity from the solar panel system, helping to pay back the cost of installation, and eventually covering the cost of utilities. Total payback to producers who use agrivoltaics is calculated based on the annual cost of electricity currently consumed versus total production of the solar panel system.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Project participants will work with local solar professionals and researchers who will:

1. Evaluate good locations near a Pacific Power meter to install a solar panel system. Preferably, the location will also allow agricultural activity to continue under the panel system, *but this is not required*.
2. Calculate cost of system installation based on total meter annual usage.
3. Apply for grants and loans to help participants offset the cost of installation.
4. Align the project with a research partner to install monitoring equipment that can study the benefits of the panels for farmers in Jefferson County (optional).

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