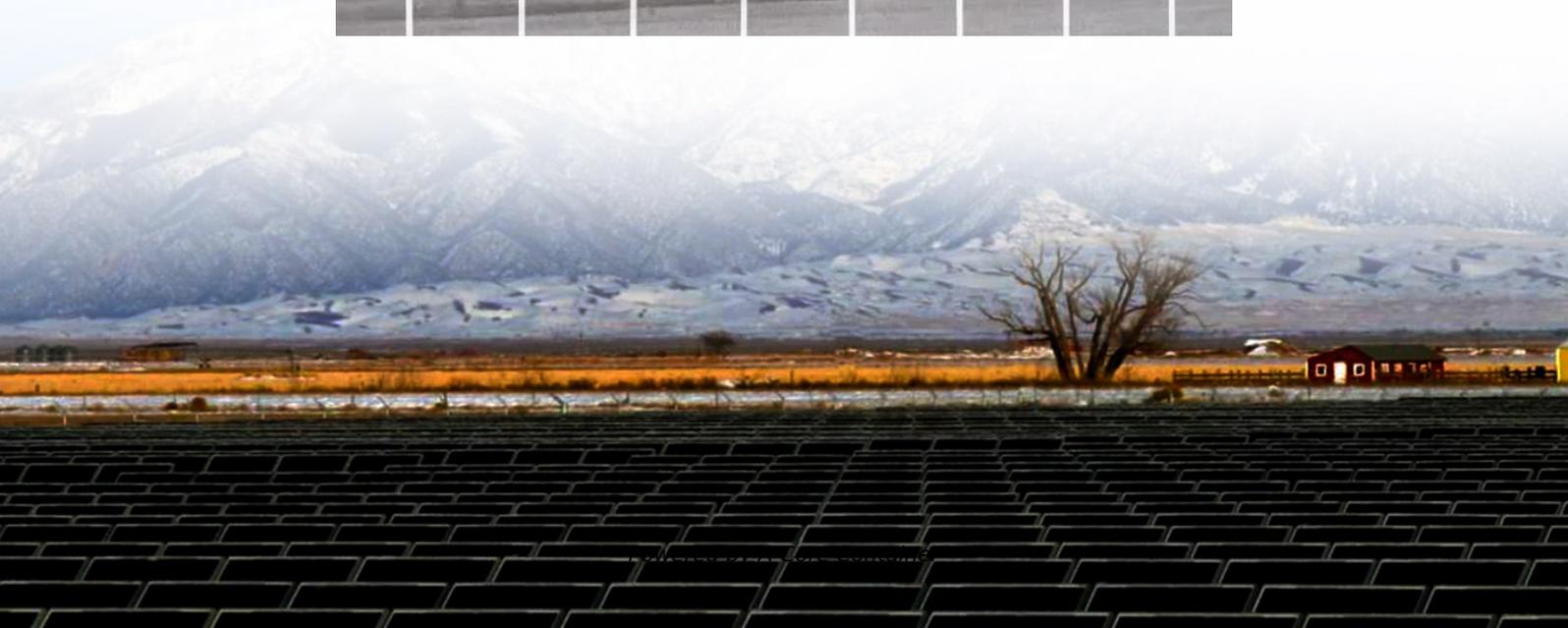
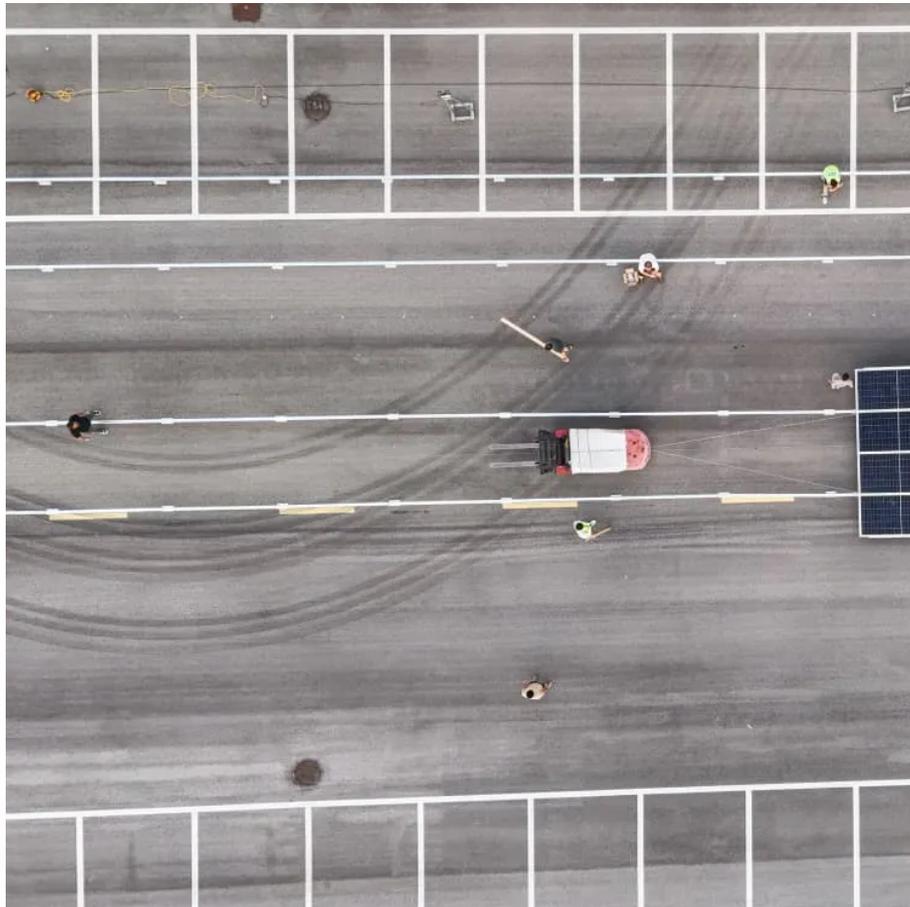


A-Core Container

Solar panels using farmland



Overview

Farmers can benefit from solar energy in several ways—by leasing farmland for solar; installing a solar system on a house, barn, or other building; or through agrivoltaics. How can farmers benefit from solar energy?

Farmers can benefit from solar energy in several ways—by leasing farmland for solar; installing a solar system on a house, barn, or other building; or through agrivoltaics. Agrivoltaics is defined as agriculture, such as crop production, livestock grazing, and pollinator habitat, located underneath solar panels and/or between rows of solar panels.

Can farmland be used for solar energy?

There is significant opportunity to produce large amounts of solar energy on farmland. Agricultural land in the U.S. has the technical potential to provide 27 terawatts of solar energy capacity. This is a quarter of the total U.S. solar energy capacity of 115 TW. Only 0.3% of farmland is expected to be used for solar energy by 2035.

Will agricultural land be used for solar energy?

Agricultural land in the U.S. has the technical potential to provide 27 terawatts of solar energy capacity. This is a quarter of the total U.S. solar energy capacity of 115 TW. Only 0.3% of farmland is expected to be used for solar energy by 2035. Will using land for solar panels drive up the price of food?

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Can agrivoltaics be used on the same farmland?

Krisy Gashler is a writer for the College of Arts and Sciences. David Nutt contributed to this report. The process of combining agricultural production and solar panels on the same farmland, known as agrivoltaics, has seen a great leap in Cornell research activity.

Can solar panels be used for agriculture?

Currently, there are several ways solar panels can be installed to complement agricultural activities. Fixed vertical or tilted panels provide partial shading for crops and vegetables, protecting them from excessive sunlight and offering shelter for livestock.

Are solar panels the future of Agriculture?

The research also found that among farmers who have leased their land, about half expect to continue producing agricultural products on the land with solar panels – a process called agrivoltaics, which has seen a great leap in Cornell research activity.

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