



To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors

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Attention Delaware Farmers

Check the DDA website for Solar FAQs and Solar Technology Guide & Resources V.1.0



Farmers who want to learn more about solar technology and determine if it appropriate for their operations now have an excellent resource, the *Solar Technology Guide and Resources V.1.0*. The guide was developed by the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) as an educational resource to assist agricultural entities in understanding the numerous and interconnected aspects of a solar project. It is available under *Hot Topics* on the DDA website: www.dda.delaware.gov.

Solar panels used to power a Sussex County poultry operation.

Ed Kee, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture said, “There are many applications for solar technology in agriculture, examples include: center pivot irrigation systems, poultry houses, grain dryers and shops on grain farms. Farmers considering this technology need an organized plan that will reduce risks and increase benefits through implementation of best practices.”

Governor Jack Markell said, “Delaware’s farmers have a proud history of innovation and results. The guide is designed to offer them information about clean energy innovations that might help them put unused land to work powering parts of their farms.”

Topics covered in the Solar Technology Guide include:

- Financial and other incentives
- Technology
- Financing
- Third Party Land Leases
- Examples of Potential Solar Applications in Agriculture
- Best Practices
- Additional Resources

Also on line is a DDA Solar FAQ document. Selected briefs from the FAQs follow:

Q: Is solar energy viable for the Delaware farming community?

A: Solar energy prices have declined dramatically. The price paid for solar energy installed today has reached a level that can be equal to or in some cases lower than current energy costs in Delaware.

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Q. Will solar panels impede my ability to continue to farm the land?

A. Solar panels are best located on fallow, underused land or structurally sound rooftops, not active tillable soil or acreage used for other agricultural activities.

Q: If this is such a good deal, then why isn't everyone doing it?

A: Delaware recently changed the way solar energy is priced to allow for lower pricing through a new set of laws, one of which is called the Renewable Portfolio Standard or RPS.

Q: What is an RPS?

A: A Renewable Portfolio Standard or RPS requires utilities to purchase renewable energy as a portion of its overall energy portfolio. In Delaware, this portion was increased to 25% by the year 2025 with 3.5% dedicated to solar.

Q: Why is the new RPS important to solar pricing?

A: The new RPS standard allows solar projects to sell Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SREC) to the utilities to lower the cost of solar energy.

Q: How do I know if solar is right for me?

A: Various technical and financial options are available to farmers seeking to install solar panels. The Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) has developed a Solar Technology Guide & Resources to assist farmers in understanding the numerous aspects of a solar project and aid in the assessment of its feasibility within their operations. This resource is available at www.dda.delaware.gov or at the DDA main office in Dover:

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