

Farm & Land Use

Why is solar developed in open areas?

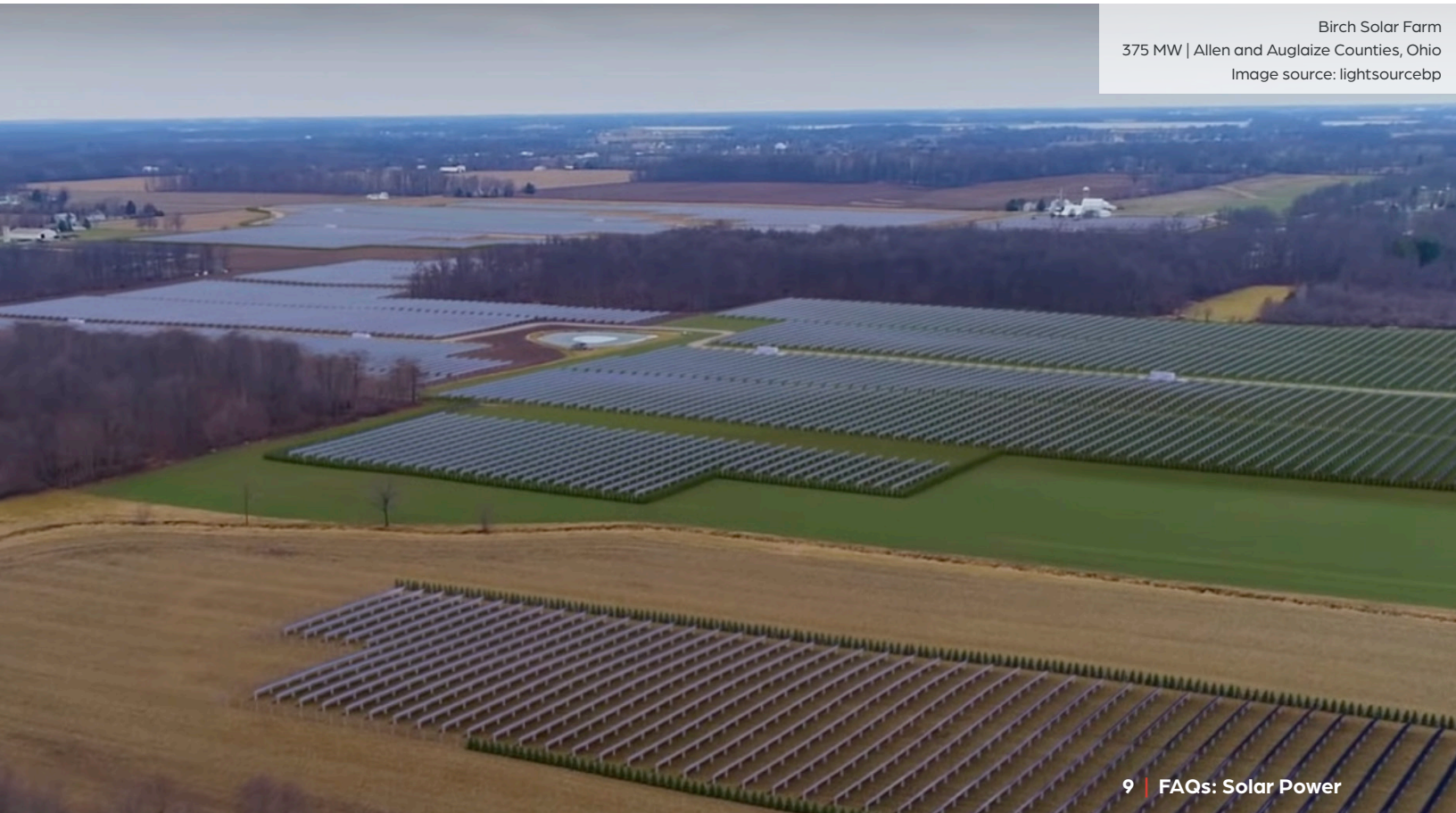
Solar projects are often developed in open areas such as [unused land](#) and [brownfields](#) that are not generating revenue, in addition to [farmland](#). In fact, a majority of solar projects are developed in rural Ohio, providing economic opportunities to rural communities that remain economically challenged.

How much land is needed to power the entire United States through solar energy?

[Only 0.6%](#) of our nation's land is needed to power the entire country by solar projects.

Can farmers make money by installing solar panels on their land?

Yes. Ohio farmers can save money with solar power, and they can make money by [leasing land](#) to solar projects. In Ohio, solar project lease rates range from [\\$1,200–\\$1,500 per acre](#).



Birch Solar Farm
375 MW | Allen and Auglaize Counties, Ohio
Image source: lightsourcebp



How do solar projects ensure farmers can practice uninterrupted?

Solar projects developed on farmland provide Ohioans with the opportunity to farm uninterrupted by the incorporation of solar panels on their land. [Grazing livestock](#), [creating pollinator habitats](#), or [growing crops](#) that are tolerant to shade ensure that farmers in Ohio can work simultaneously with solar panels they place on their farm – this practice is known as agrivoltaics.

How do solar panels impact biodiversity?

[Bird and plant populations](#) can increase near solar panels. This is accomplished through [initiatives](#) like seeding and building raised platforms for solar panels, biodiversity of species in the area flourish.

Do solar panels divert groundwater away from farmland?

No. Solar energy provides an energy source that is not dependent on water. This leaves more groundwater for Ohio farmers to irrigate their crops and increase their output. Not only does it [improve water efficiency](#), but better protects crops from weather by [drying](#) them more efficiently, too.

What do future projects in Ohio look like?

Amazon [recently announced](#) plans to invest in three new renewable energy projects in Ohio, which include solar farms in Crawford, Champaign, and Fayette Counties. Additionally, the Canal Road Solar Project [will provide](#) local government agencies with \$32 million and private capital investment worth \$94.6 million over the project's lifetime.