

# Rural talent makes his own solar power generation



## Overview

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It's been 10 years since Ibrahim and his co-founder Charles Nichols launched SunCulture, a start-up headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya that helps farmers grow food without relying on rainfall by using solar-powered irrigation systems instead. Although 2025 presented considerable challenges for the solar energy industry, utility-scale solar power continues to generate substantial benefits for communities throughout the United States. Rural regions, where many of these projects are located, have experienced notable economic benefits . Reactivate, American Farmland Trust, and Edelen Renewables Community Solar recently announced a new partnership: Farmers Powering Communities (FPC). The mission of Farmers Powering Communities is: "Bringing together those working to feed the planet with those working to power America. In partnership with other renewable energy sources such as wind and geothermal, our nation's energy grid is expected to rise from 19% renewable in 2019 to 38% in 2050, with solar energy accounting for .

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### [Solar energy implementation in rural communities and its contributions](#)

The review highlights solar energy's role in rural areas, job creation, healthcare, education, and economic empowerment.

### Smithfield, North Carolina

Smithfield, North Carolina detailed profile Mean prices in 2023: all housing units: \$260,051; detached houses: \$278,982; townhouses or other attached units: \$245,179; in 2-unit structures: \$176,100; in 3



### Chesterfield County, Virginia detailed profile

Chesterfield County, Virginia (VA) County population in 2024: 389,793 (92% urban, 8% rural); it was 259,903 in 2000 County owner-occupied with a mortgage or a loan houses and condos in 2020:

### [Maywood, Illinois \(IL 60153\) profile: population, maps, real estate](#)

Maywood, Illinois detailed profile Mean prices in 2024: all housing units: \$234,305; detached houses: \$227,243; townhouses or other attached units: \$289,728; in 2-unit structures: \$267,787; in 3-to-4-unit





## Native Americans are building their own solar farms

The non-profit, which is now run by his son John Red Cloud, works with more than 70 tribes to upskill members so they can find jobs in the renewable energy sector.

## Solar Energy Expansion in Rural Communities , Focus on Ag

Solar energy is leading the way, with much of the new development occurring on farmland and in rural communities. It has the potential to be a financial opportunity for landowners, yet it can



## Battle Creek, Michigan

Battle Creek, Michigan detailed profile Mean prices in 2024: all housing units: \$169,707; detached houses: \$172,382; townhouses or other attached units: \$206,021; in 2-unit structures: \$177,276; in 3

## 'We're harvesting the sun': A huge solar project grows in

A sweeping plan to build 21 gigawatts of solar plus batteries on 136,000 acres could be a lifeline for Central Valley farmers facing devastating water shortages.

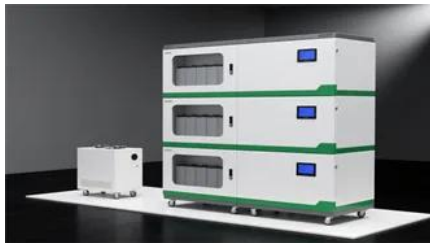


## Cooperative and Community Opportunities in Solar Energy

This section describes the benefits of solar power and group action, solar energy production methods, and government involvement that have all helped greater adoption of solar technology.

## [GenPro Energy Solutions on the Expanding Promise of Community Solar](#)

For the past decade, GenPro Energy Solutions has been deeply engaged in the development of community solar projects across rural America.



### **Eden Prairie, Minnesota**

Eden Prairie, Minnesota detailed profile Mean prices in 2024: all housing units: \$646,745; detached houses: \$745,111; townhouses or other attached units: \$416,855; in 2-unit structures:

### **Boynton Beach, Florida**

Boynton Beach, Florida detailed profile Mean prices in 2024: all housing units: \$443,086; detached houses: \$527,191; townhouses or other attached units: \$358,510; in 2-unit structures: \$209,365; in 3



### **Solar Energy and the Rebirth of Rural Economies**

By embracing solar energy, rural areas can create jobs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve access to electricity, and empower local communities. However, overcoming

## [Proof that utility-scale solar creates jobs and stability in rural](#)

Through its electrical apprenticeship program and comprehensive solar construction trade worker training model, McCarthy invests directly in rural talent while helping communities benefit





## Santa Ana, California

Santa Ana, California detailed profile Mean prices in 2024: all housing units: \$736,416; detached houses: \$883,286; townhouses or other attached units: \$569,037; in 2-unit structures: \$523,546; in 3

## Expanding Solar Power In Rural & Working-Class Communities

At American Farmland Trust, we talk to farmers every day who are harnessing these new opportunities made possible by solar.



## [This 33-year-old raised \\$40 million to give rural farmers solar power](#)

After learning more about the rising popularity of off-grid solar technology, they decided to build a solar power system that could help small farmers.

## [Rural Valley, Pennsylvania \(PA 16249\) profile: population, maps, real](#)

Tornado activity: Rural Valley-area historical tornado activity is near Pennsylvania state average. It is 21% smaller than the overall U.S. average. On 1980-06-03, a category F4 (max. wind speeds 207



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