SolarTech Power Solutions

Farm farming using solar panels to generate electricity

Overview

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A new report co-authored by WSU researchers concluded that Washington state could add solar panels to tens of thousands of acres of orchards and farms, making a significant dent in future energy needs without taking farmland out of production. (Photo by Sun’Agri) In the years to come, the world.

As the world looks for ways to produce more with less, agrivoltaics offers a fresh approach: combining solar panels and agriculture on the same land. By generating renewable energy while supporting crops and livestock, this dual-use system can boost farm productivity, strengthen local economies.

Modern agrivoltaic systems use advanced solar technologies like back contact panels and bifacial modules to maintain 80-85% power output even when partially shaded. These innovations allow farmers to harvest sunshine and crops together, creating resilient agricultural operations for the climate.

Agrivoltaics combine the production of crops or livestock with the generation of electricity from solar panels. To date, the number of agrivoltaics projects has been modest, about 600 nationwide. Sheep grazing is the most popular livestock type. Vegetables and berries are the leading crops.

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