



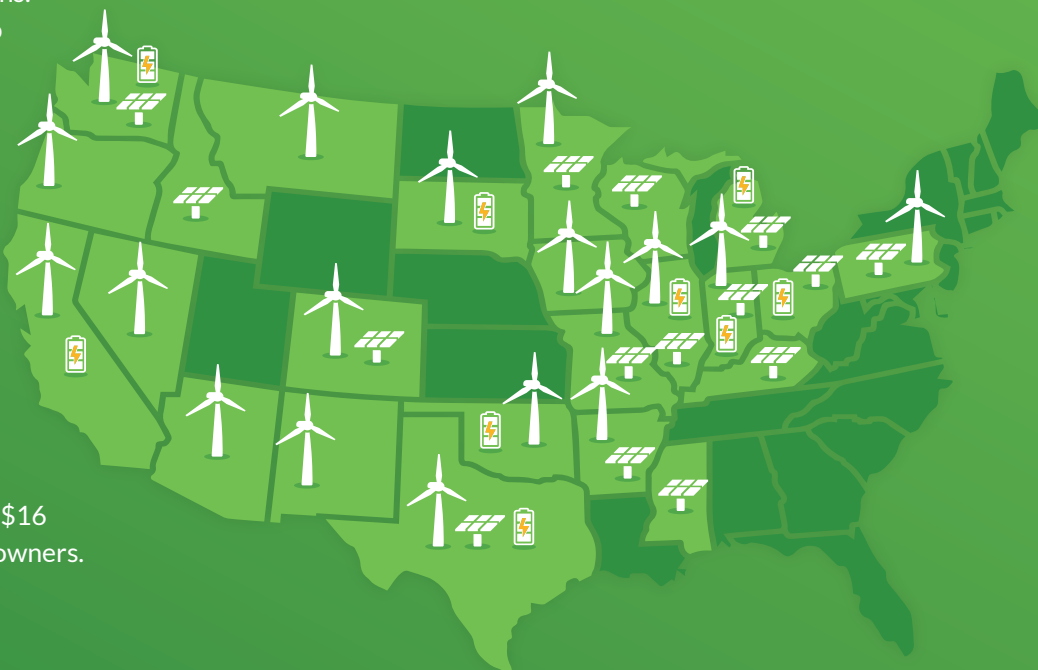
LANDOWNER'S GUIDE TO

Solar Energy

Get to Know Us.

Scout Clean Energy is an American developer, owner, and operator, dedicated to transforming our country's energy mix. Our mission is to develop cost competitive renewable energy projects while supporting rural economic development and energy security. Scout has extensive experience developing and operating projects that have involved dozens of communities and thousands of property owners including family farms, ranches, business owners, veterans, and retirees.

Founded in 2016, we are based in Colorado with several local offices at our project locations. Scout has a diverse portfolio of wind and solar projects that span the U.S. Scout has over 1.6 GW of projects in operation or under construction, and over 19 GWs of projects under development. We can proudly say that these projects represent more than 1,600 executed leases with landowners across 25 states. In 2024 alone, Scout paid more than \$16 million to participating landowners.



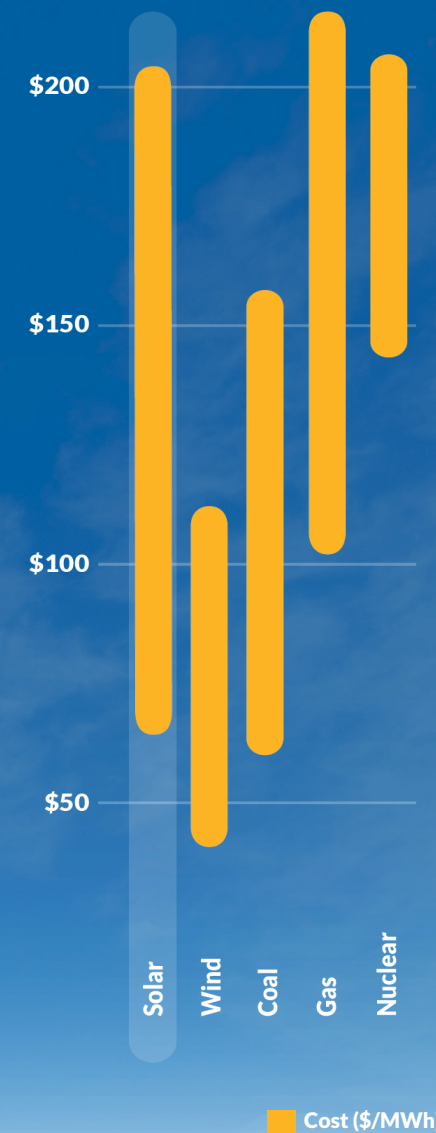
- >1.6 Gigawatts of projects in operation or under construction
- 19 Gigawatts of projects under development
- >1600 Executed leases with landowners
- >\$16 mm Paid to landowners in 2024

What is Solar Energy?

Solar energy is a renewable resource emitted by the sun that we use to generate electricity. Negligible fuel inputs are required to operate a solar project and no waste is generated during operation. According to the Solar Energy Industries Association, a 100MW solar farm can meet the needs of **16,400 average U.S. homes**.

Solar energy production is a growing industry and studies show that solar offers cheaper energy from a levelized cost perspective than nuclear, gas, and coal energy. Levelized cost of energy is the total cost to develop, build, and operate a facility over its lifetime.

LEVELIZED COST OF ENERGY

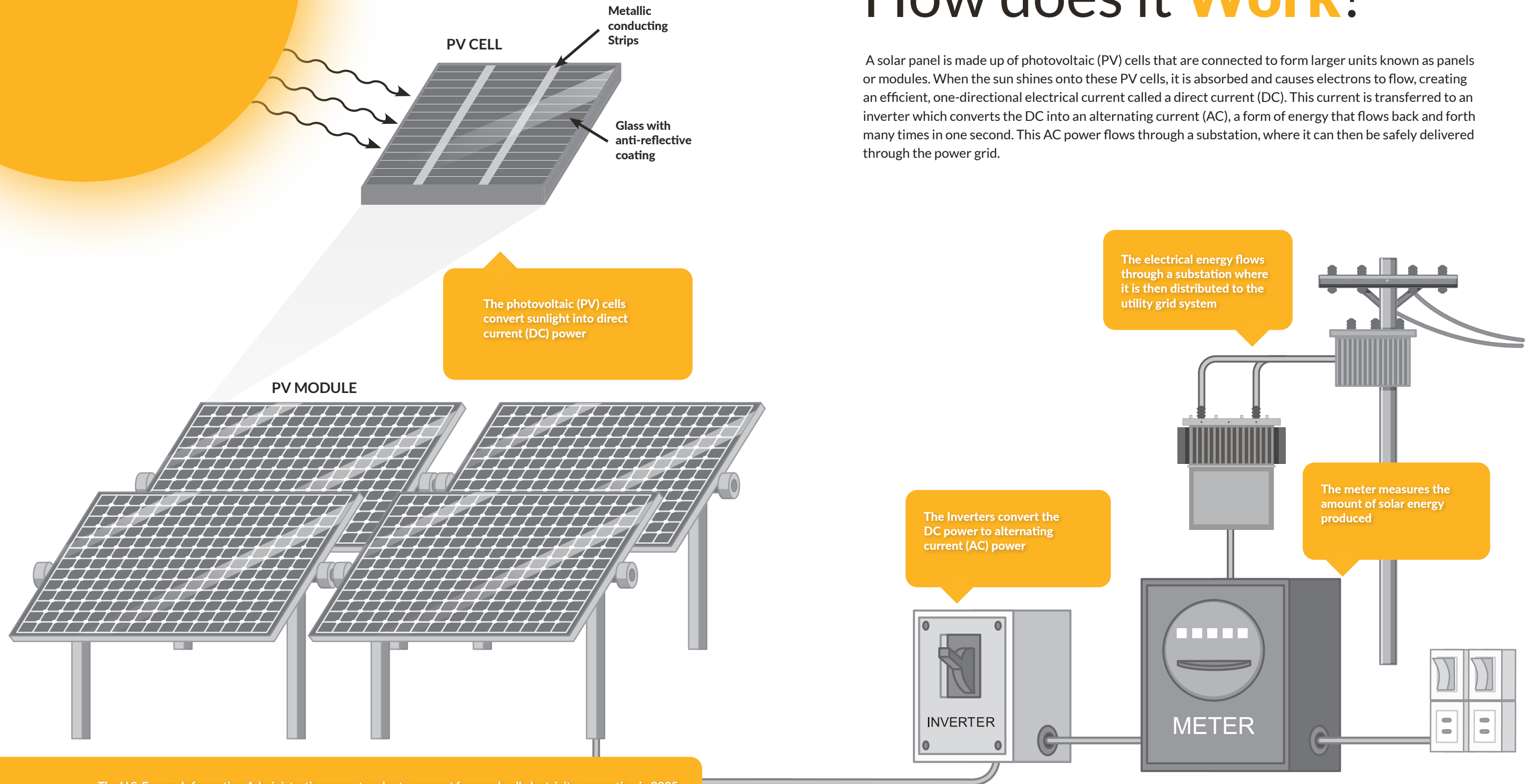


Source: Adapted from Lazard's Levelized Cost of Energy Analysis-Version 17.0 2024



How does it **Work**?

A solar panel is made up of photovoltaic (PV) cells that are connected to form larger units known as panels or modules. When the sun shines onto these PV cells, it is absorbed and causes electrons to flow, creating an efficient, one-directional electrical current called a direct current (DC). This current is transferred to an inverter which converts the DC into an alternating current (AC), a form of energy that flows back and forth many times in one second. This AC power flows through a substation, where it can then be safely delivered through the power grid.



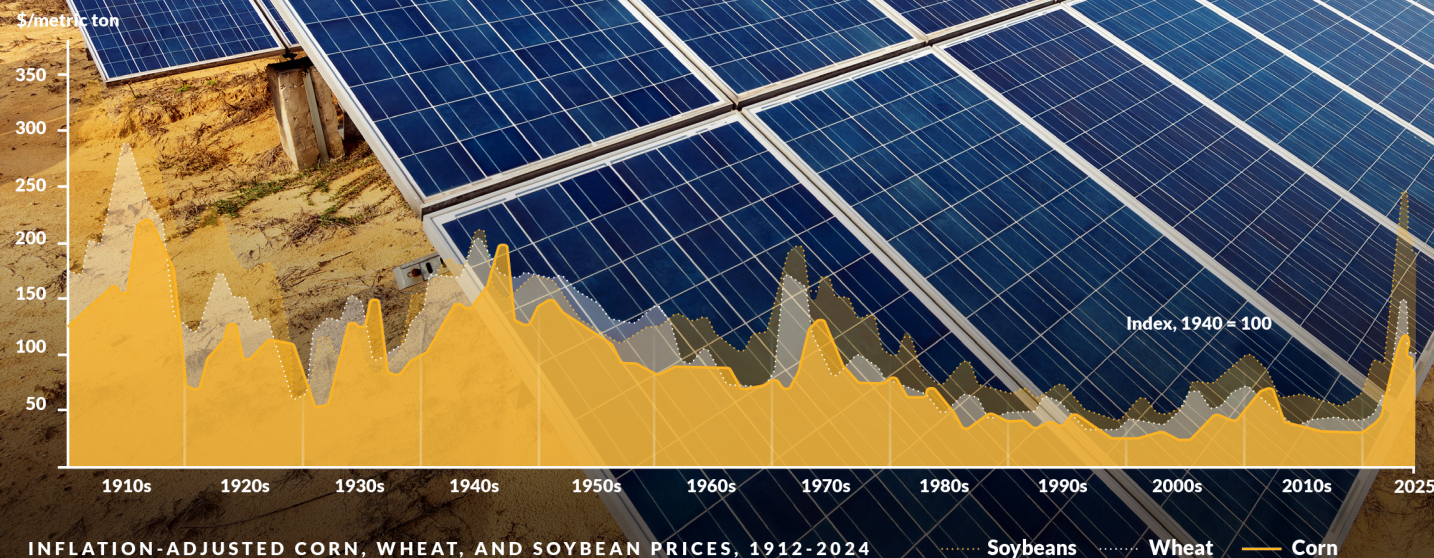
On the Rise

The U.S. Energy Information Administration expects solar to account for nearly all electricity generation in 2025. With the growth in the industry, solar is also propelling employment of solar system installers, an occupation which is predicted to grow over 50% from 2024 to 2029. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, 279,447 U.S. citizens were employed by the solar industry in 2024.

What's in it for the **Landowner?**

As a landowner, you have a valuable resource above your land in the form of solar energy, or as we like to say, “yields above your fields!” When you sign an agreement with Scout, you are participating in an opportunity to harvest that resource and earn a secondary long-term, reliable income. Since solar projects typically operate for up to four decades, these annual payments can last well into retirement, help farms mitigate against risk, or even help support the next generation take up the family business. Scout’s lease has development, construction, and operation terms during which landowners are compensated for their participation in the project.

Volatile commodity prices, precipitation and temperature patterns, pests and pathogens, changing trade relations, and other unpredictable realities can cause agricultural profits to fluctuate regularly. Hosting a renewable energy project alongside agricultural production can provide a steady income stream complimentary to the unpredictability of farm income. According to the USDA, 89% of U.S. farms are family owned and the households operating these farms typically rely on off-farm sources for the majority of their household income. This means that finding new ways to mitigate risk and diversify farm income is more important than ever.



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service and U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

What's in it for the **Community?**

A Scout project provides communities with additional tax revenue. This tax revenue can be used to fund schools, roads, and community centers, all without placing a strain on local services. Scout's 100 MW Sun Chief Solar Farm in Jay County, Indiana will pay \$23M in local taxes over the lifespan of the project.

Scout's projects also create jobs. A typical Scout project generates **hundreds of construction jobs** as well as a number of long term operating jobs. During construction, these employees and contractors support the local economy by choosing local dining, convenience store, and lodging options. Additionally, landowners often spend their lease payment revenue locally, which in turn helps other local businesses including restaurants, auto and farm equipment dealers, farm service providers, and more. Once a project is built, our employees and their families live and work in these communities.

Every Scout project lives **Somewhere**

Beyond taxes, Scout also directly supports and sponsors local organizations and causes including fire departments, 4-H groups, livestock shows, and local festivals. From sponsoring local events to protecting wildlife, we've formed win-win relationships with the communities that are home to our solar and wind projects.



What we mean by Clean.

While all energy generation has an impact on the environment, solar energy production is unique in that the only fuel required is sunshine, which will never be depleted. No emissions are produced while a project is in operation.

The installation of solar energy systems also provides an opportunity to enhance the land. Native grasses and pollinators can flourish beneath the panels, which enriches the earth. At the end of the lease, the land can continue to be used as it was before, with the added benefit of increased soil nutrients.

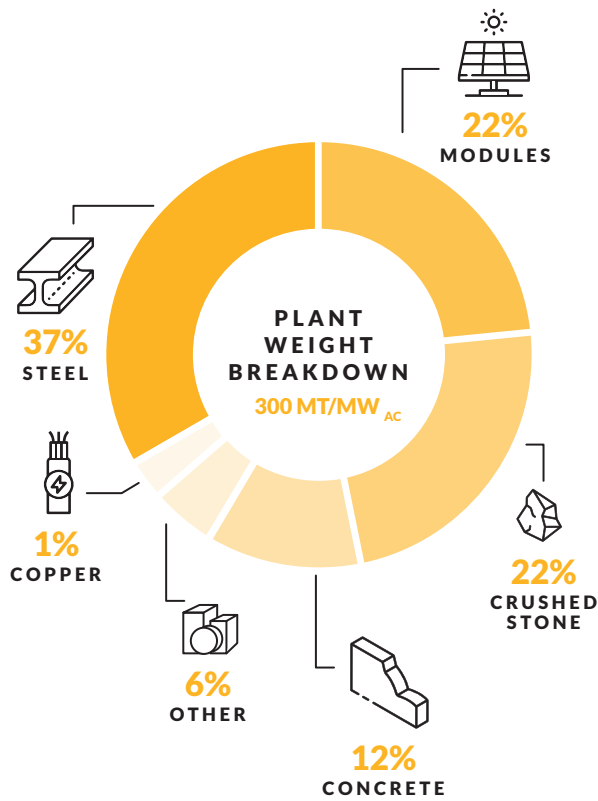
Sustainability shouldn't just be about compliance, it should be about vision. We've implemented our own standards on top of internationally recognized guidelines. Scout partners with wildlife organizations like the Renewable Energy Wildlife Institute (rewi.org) to facilitate responsible solar development. Additionally, Scout has committed to the Equator Principles standard (equator-principles.com) for ensuring that projects are developed in a manner that is socially responsible and reflects sound environmental management practices.

Solar Project Decommissioning

Decommissioning a solar project at the end of its life involves the responsible handling and removal of several types of materials. These include the panels themselves, crushed stone, steel, wiring, glass, aluminum frames, and fencing. Many of these materials can be recycled and reused later. In some cases, solar panel life can be extended by reuse or refurbishment.

Many markets also exist for waste products from the panels themselves. Materials like copper cables, metals, silicon, glass, and junction boxes can be bought by the recycling industry for reuse. 78% to 95% of the materials by weight from panels can be recovered for other uses.

As outlined in your solar lease, Scout sets forward standards to ensure the removal of the solar facilities at the end of their useful life.



MARKETS FOR MATERIALS		
	CABLES	 Cable recycler
	JUNCTION BOXES	 e-waste recycler
	METALS	 metal recyclers, refineries, smelters
	GLASS	 production of low-value products like fiberglass; potential for high-value float glass or niche products
	POLYMERS	 landfill or incinerate for low-grade energy recovery
	SILICON	 metallurgical grade Si (US\$2/kg) for industrial use; potential to upgrade to solar-grade Si (>US\$10/kg) for use in manufacturing new modules

Data Source: EPRI, 2018

Data Source: Nature Energy, 2020; EPRI, Alliance for Sustainable Energy, and Wambach-Consulting, 2017, BloombergNEF, 2020

Why **Here?**

So why does Scout want to place a solar project here? There are several factors that make this area the ideal spot for a productive, safe, and efficient solar farm.

Solar Resource

The energy from the sun is strong enough to generate sufficient electrical output.

Geography

This is a mostly flat, clear area where the sun resource is strong and consistent.

Minimal Environmental Impact

This project is sited in an area where it will have the least impact on critical species and habitat.

Grid Connectivity

This project area is near a transmission line that will allow the project to cost effectively deliver electricity to the grid.

Robust Energy Market

Many utilities and corporations are looking to procure cost competitive and clean renewable energy for the future. Because solar energy does not rely upon volatile fuel prices, we can offer a fixed energy price for a decade or more! Many utilities and companies find this price certainty very attractive.

Thank you for reading and we look forward to working with you!

For further information on solar energy, check out these trusted, third-party resources.



www.cleanpower.org



www.seia.org



www.cleangridalliance.org



www.energy.gov/eere/office-energy-efficiency-renewable-energy

visit www.scoutcleanenergy.com to learn more



Scout Clean Energy LLC
1805 29th Street, Suite 2050 | Boulder, CO
info@scoutcleanenergy.com
(303) 284-7566
scoutcleanenergy.com