

Developing Solar Energy Projects on Agricultural Lands



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Importance of Agriculture to New York and Hudson Valley



Competition for Land



Solar Energy: Opportunity for Farmers



Expanding solar energy...beware of unintended consequences



Source: aecon.com. Landowners need to do background research before entering into a solar energy lease.
June 15, 2016 Ashley Ellixson and Paul Goeringer

Smart Solar Siting

- Maximize potential for solar while minimizing impact on most productive farmland
- Guide siting to land w/ least impact on ag & env

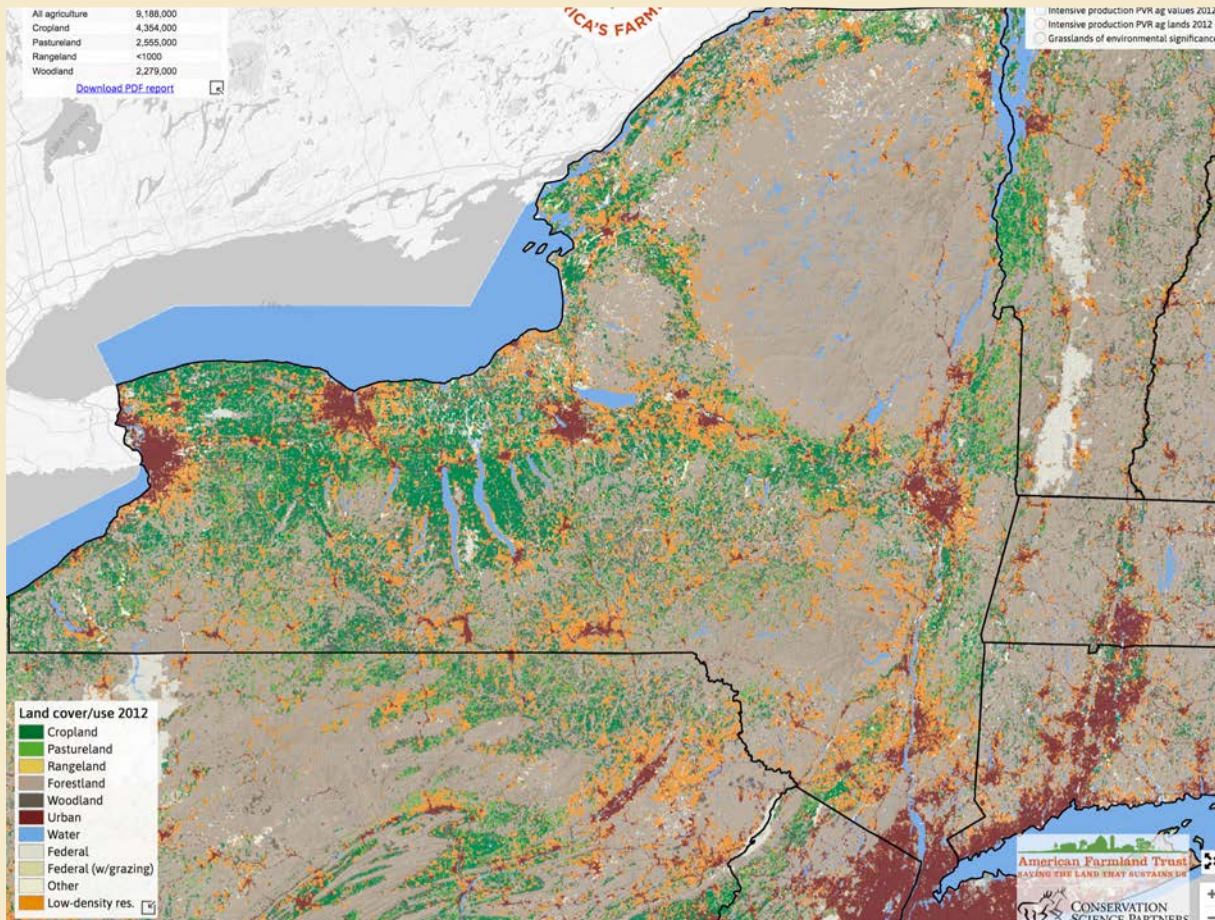


Smart Solar Siting Activities

- Map the land w/ multi-stakeholders
- Identify best practices and create info clearinghouse
- Train local entities
- Explore dual use
- Require data to learn
- Advocate policies
- Communicate win-win



Mapping the best ag land



New York Land Cover/Land Use

Smart Solar Siting

America needs more renewable energy--smart solar siting maximizes the potential for solar energy while minimizing the impact on our most productive farmland and resilient habitat

Many U.S. states have set ambitious goals for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and significantly increasing the generation of renewable energy. This will require dramatic increases in solar and wind energy.

Farmland & Solar Siting Resources

Below are resources on solar siting on farmland for the following states organized by laws, literature and other resources. Some links take you to The Farmland Information Center (FIC)--a clearinghouse for information about farmland protection and stewardship operated in partnership between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and American Farmland Trust (AFT). On the [FIC Solar Siting special collection](#) you can search for information by state, type of resource, type of law, and other categories.

- [Connecticut](#)
- [Maine](#)
- [Massachusetts](#)
- [New Hampshire](#)
- [New Jersey](#)
- [New York](#)

www.farmland.org/solar

Dual Use or Farming Friendly Solar



NO FARMS NO FOOD

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