Solar 101

How Does Solar Work?



The amount of light hitting the earth in one hour exceeds the entire Earth's need annually



Solar panels absorb the sunlight (photons) and convert them to electricity (power)



The clean power generated is transmitted into the electrical grid to homes and businesses

Solar Project Life Cycle

Development	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning
4 – 5 years	1 – 2 years	35 – 40 years	1 year
Brings together the site, permitting, environmental, and key relationships to set the project foundation.	Construction equipment is mobilized, the site prepared, and modules and equipment installed.	The site produces clean energy and can power thousands of households.	Properly recycle the site's components and return the land back to its original state.

Qcells, headquartered in Irvine, California, offers the full spectrum of solar solutions – from the core technology of panels to utility-scale project development and investment. We bring a decade of global leadership in solar PV to deliver utility-scale power generation plants customized for local regions. We partner with landowners, communities, and local officials to build the future of energy, together.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is It Safe?

The materials used in the panels pose no danger to the site or its surroundings. In addition, Qcells only uses in panels that are environmentally friendly and meet all industry safety standards.

Q. Will It Hurt My Property Value?

Data from across the United States show solar farm's often have no measurable impact on property value's and in some cases have positive effects.

Q. Does It Make Noise?

Solar projects are essentially silent. Inverters may produce an ambient hum that is not normally audible from outside the project fence.

Q. Will It Leak Toxic Chemicals Into The Environment?

There is no odor, liquid, or gases used in the panels and the minute amounts of heavy metals used in some panels cannot mix with water or vaporize into the air. Even if a module were to break, there is little to no risk of chemicals releasing into the environment.

Q. How Much Activity Does A Site Have?

After the construction process, solar projects do not attract significant traffic and require infrequent maintenance a few times a year.

Ready To Discuss Your Property?

Connect with our Team:

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Q. What Does A Site Look Like?

Solar appear similar to a single-story residence. Usually no more than 10 feet high, solar farms are often enclosed by fencing and/or landscaping to minimize visual impacts.

Q. Will I Lose My Agricultural Exemption?

Land that is being taxed as agriculture exempt will lose this exemption and be applied a penalty paid by Qcells. The zoning designation of host properties or neighboring properties will not change.

Q. Will It Ruin My Agricultural Use?

Solar and agriculture are not mutually exclusive and co-location can bring net positive benefits for farmers, in the form of additional income and soil recovery, while keeping farmers on the land and the land in the family.

Q. Does My Community Benefit?

During construction, a solar project can generate over a hundred jobs, many being local to the project site. The project also can provide substantial increases in local tax revenue. Qcells also works with local leaders to establish a community benefits program.

Q. What Is Decommissioning?

At the end of the project's life, the project components are removed and the land is restored to its original use.



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