NYSERDA's Sun & Soil Program

Kristin France, Project Manager, Environmental Research

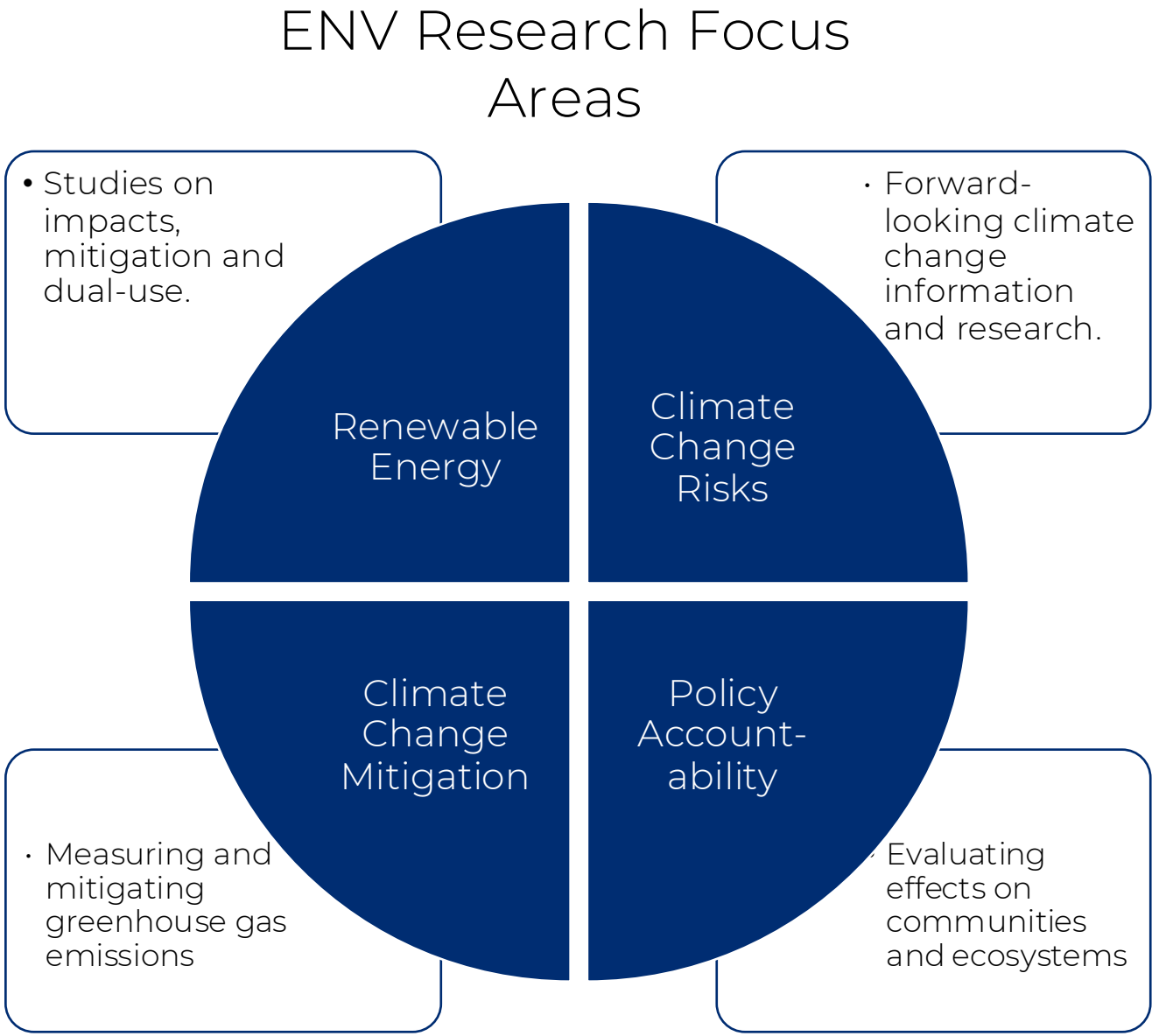
March 31, 2026 NASEO Rural Working Group Agrivoltaics Webinar

NEW YORK STATE

NYSERDA
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

Environmental Research Group

Provide sound, current scientific research to inform decision-making relative to energy-related environmental policies and goals.



NYS Energy Plan

Core planning scenarios revised from Climate Act Scoping Plan + 3 GW Nuclear

Future additions by 2040:

24 GW solar (largest capacity addition)

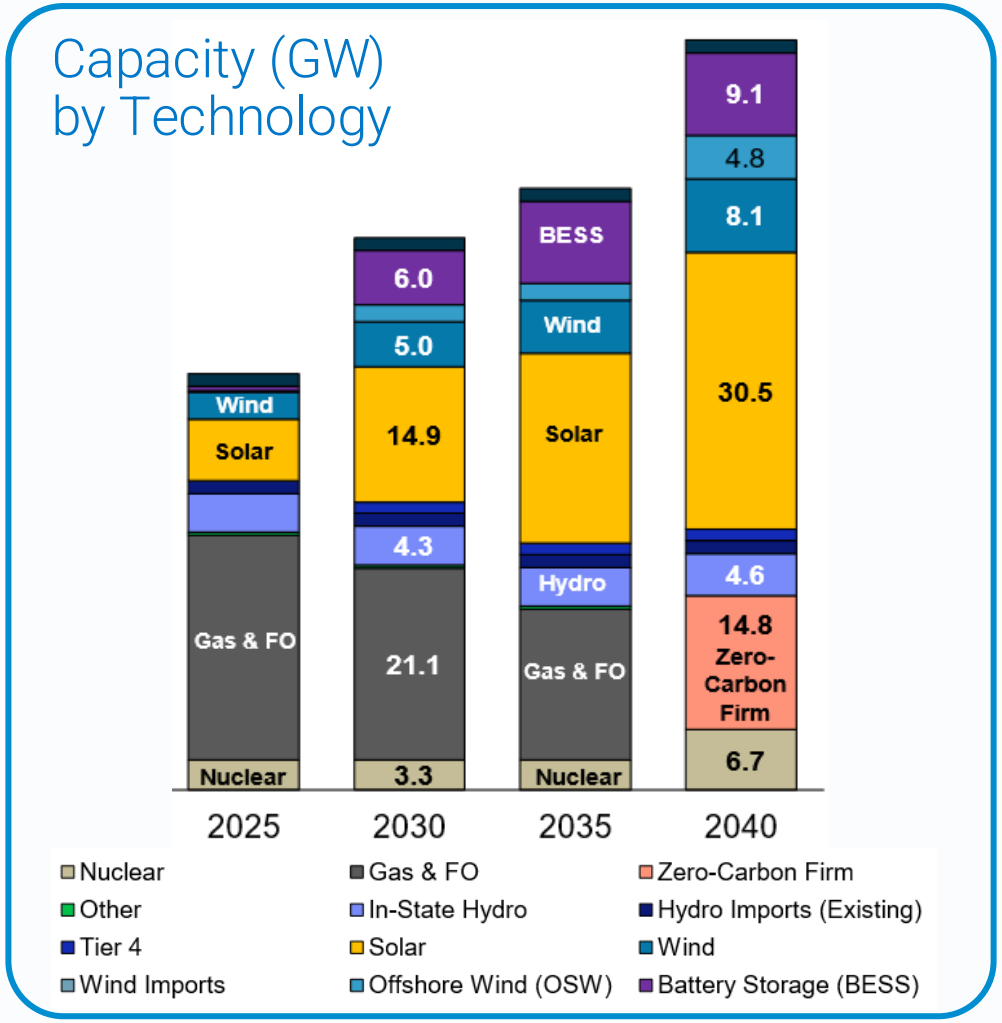
5 GW land-based wind

5-7 GW offshore wind

2-3+ GW nuclear

Comprehensive, sector-wide plan with specific agricultural recommendations

Energyplan.ny.gov



Article XIV, Section 4 of the New York State Constitution:

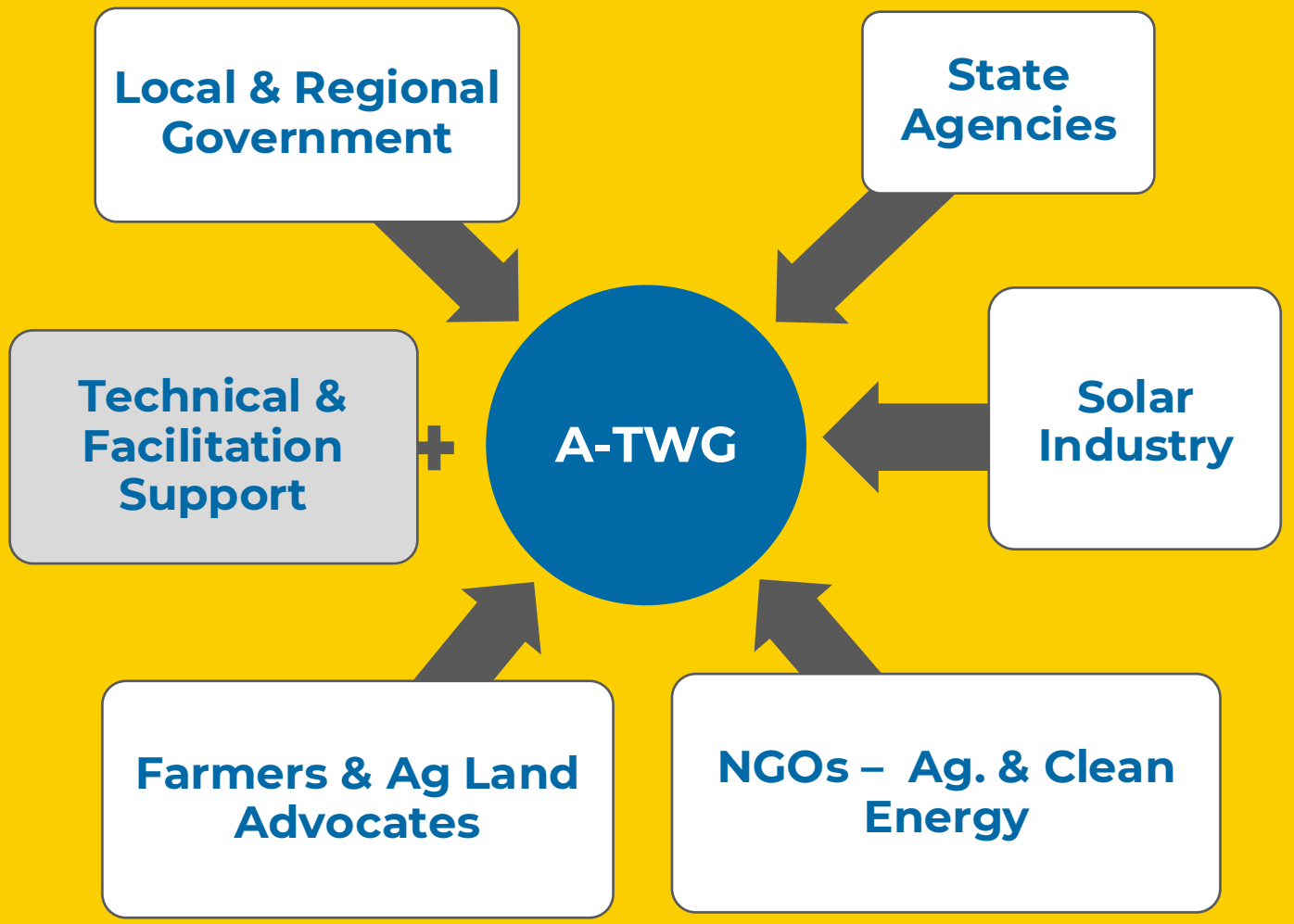
"… the policy of the State shall be to encourage the development and improvement of its agricultural lands for the production of food and other agricultural products."

Photo Credit: ClearPath Energy

https://nyfb.org/about/about-ny-ag

https://agriculture.ny.gov/land-and-water/farmland-protection-working-group

NYSERDA'S AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP



nyatwg.com; https://www.nyatwg.com/agv-specialist-committee

NY Sun & Soil Program

NYSERDA in collaboration with NY State Department of Agriculture & Markets

- Focus on increasing options for farmers to benefit from solar integration while maintaining valuable land assets, with ongoing guidance from the multi-stakeholder independent advisory body, Agricultural Technical Working Group (A-TWG)
- Identify responsible solar development practices that support New York State's agricultural operations, lands, farmers, and communities.
- Advance research, demonstration projects, and partnerships between farmers and renewable energy developers

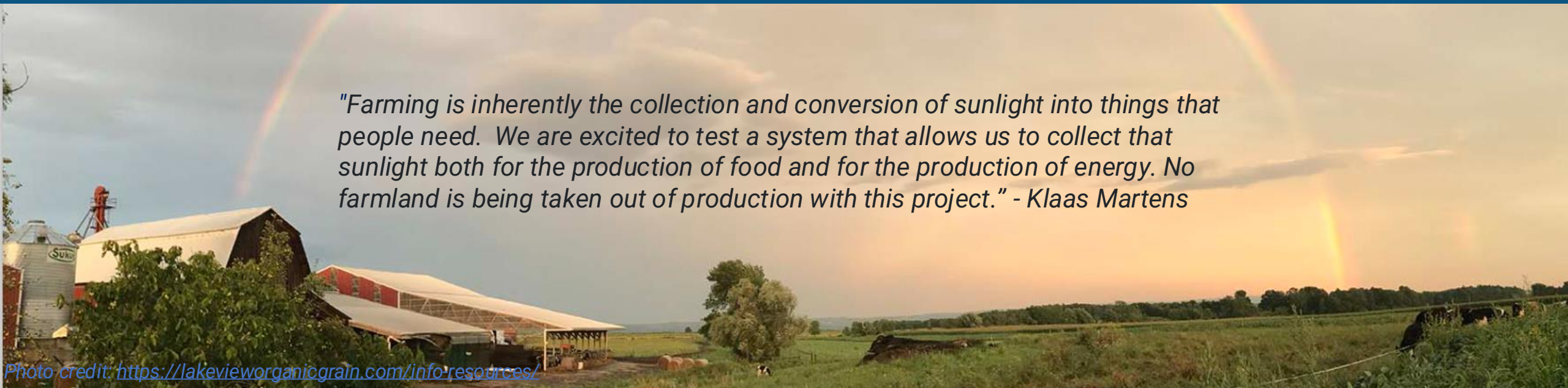


Photo credit: https://lakevieworganicgrain.com/info-resources/

Fund implementation of projects that are potential viable model systems, committed to collaboration with farmers and researchers, sharing energy and agricultural production data and lessons learned

Photo Credit: Next2Sun

Engaging a research contractor team at Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to support all projects

Louis Longchamps, Richard Stedman, Wendong Zhang

Caroline Marschner, Katie Walsh

Initial Project Portfolio: United Agrivoltaics

Photo Credits: Caleb Scott, United Agrivoltaics

Initial Project Portfolio: Lightstar Renewables Plains Road

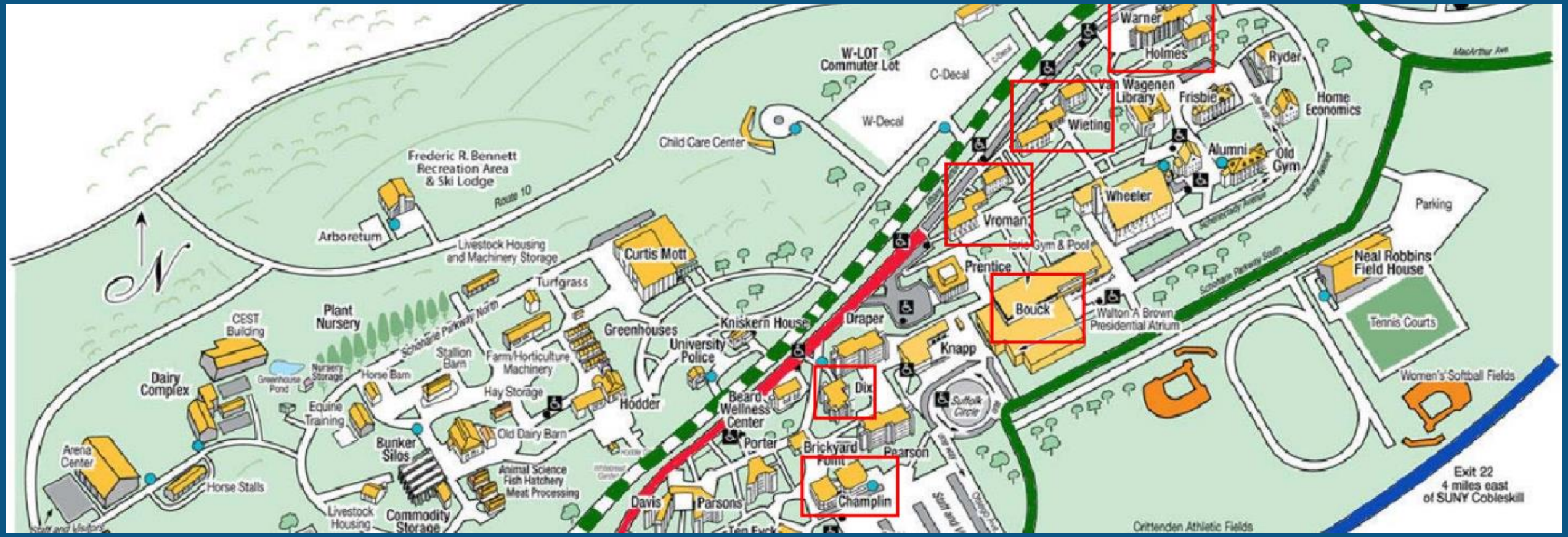
Photo credit:Lightstar Plains Road website - https://www.lightstar.com/project-portfolio/plains-road

Initial Project Portfolio: K&MH Farms

Photo credit: https://lakevieworganicgrain.com/info-resources/

Photo credit: Greenspark

Initial Project Portfolio: New York Power Authority & SUNY Cobleskill



EARLY LESSONS LEARNED

- Support developers & farmers to deeply collaborate, limiting constraints and requirements
- Participating helps developers grow internal resources and capacity to design and construct agrivoltaics projects
- Having bridging agrivoltaics expertise helps – someone to facilitate that collaboration by understanding both parties and having experience with identifying solutions
- Soil protective practices make a big difference
- Recommend soil resource advocates on site and training/explaining to everyone doing construction

Request for Information due April 30

Future Solicitations (anticipated later in 2026)

First full field season with projects

Collect and share initial learnings

Develop data sharing portal and website

Photo credit: Kristin France, NYSERDA

Sun & Soil Program RFI

https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/PutEnergyToWork/Industry-Energy-Solutions/Agriculture/Agrivoltaics

BUILDING AGRIVOLTAICS AT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS

Hudson Valley Research Lab, Photo credit: Jeff Mertz, Scenic Hudson

- **Leveraging federal and state funded agricultural research staff and facilities, construct agrivoltaics at up to three locations**
- Hudson Valley Research Lab (Highland): 300kw on ~2 acres above high density apple orchards
- Cornell University (Ithaca): 900kw Single Axis Tracker with emphasis on testing and replicating forage and niche cropping systems

NYSERDA'S OTHER SOLAR & AGRICULTURE RELATED INITIATIVES

LARGE SCALE RENEWABLES & NY-SUN PROGRAMS:

- Requirement for solar projects to adopt NY Department of Agriculture and Market's Solar Construction Guidelines
- Agricultural Mitigation Payment/Agricultural Co-Utilization Plan option
- Smart Solar Siting Scorecard

CLEAN SITING TEAM: Solar Guidebook and Model Law Updates for Dual-Use and Agrivoltaics

[Large-Scale-Renewables]
[NY-Sun]
[Clean-Energy-Siting-Resources/Solar-Guidebook]

Photo Credit: ClearPath Energy

NEW YORK SPECIFIC AGRIVOLTAIC RESOURCES

- **New York Power Authority & EPRI – Sustainable Land Practices Integrating Agriculture and Solar Energy Systems (Feb ’23)**
- **ACENY – Agrivoltaics in NY, Framing the Opportunity (Oct ‘23)**
- **A-TWG, NYSERDA, & WSP - Growing Agrivoltaics in NYS (Oct ‘23) and considerations for “Grazing-Ready” Solar Facilities: Planning for Integration of Sheep (June ’24)**

Photo Credit: ClearPath Energy

All resources at
https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/PutEnergyToWork/Industry-Energy-Solutions/Agriculture/Agrivoltaics

Thank You!

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NEW YORK STATE
NYSERDA
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

New Jersey's
Dual-Use Solar Energy Pilot Program

Disclaimer

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All viewers are responsible for ensuring that they rely only on current legal authority regarding the matters covered in the presentation.

Overview

- Introduction to NJBPU
- Solar through New Jersey's Clean Energy Program
- Dual-Use Pilot Program Objectives
- NJ Interagency Working Group
- Program Milestones and Next Steps
- Challenges and Lessons Learned
- Agrivoltaics Research Projects at Rutgers University
- Q&A

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) is the State agency with authority to oversee the regulated utilities, which provide critical services such as natural gas, electricity, water, telecommunications, and cable television.

NJBPU ensures safe and adequate utility services are provided at reasonable, non-discriminatory rates by developing and regulating a competitive, economically cost effective energy policy that promotes responsible growth and clean renewable energy sources while maintaining a high quality of life in New Jersey.

New Jersey's cleanenergy program™

Solar through New Jersey's Clean Energy Program

ADMINISTERED BY

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' Division of Clean Energy

AUTHORIZED BY

Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act of 1999
Solar Act of 2012
Clean Energy Act of 2018
Solar Energy Act of 2021
Dual-Use Solar Energy Act of 2021

NEW: https://cleanenergy.nj.gov/

SOLAR DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

Societal Benefits Charge
Net Metering and Interconnection Rules
Renewable Portfolio Standards
Successor Solar Incentive Program (SuSI):
- Administratively Determined Incentive Program
- Competitive Solar Incentive Program

Dual-Use Solar Energy & Program Objectives

https://cleanenergy.nj.gov/programs/solar/dual-use-solar-energy-pilot-program

- Dual-Use Solar Energy Act of 2021 required BPU to develop rules and regulations for a Dual-Use Solar Energy Pilot Program in New Jersey to inform a permanent program
- Dual-use solar (also called agrivoltaics) means agricultural production and solar energy production that take place (i.e., co-location) on the same farmland
- Dual-use solar can help New Jersey to meet clean energy goals while protecting farmland from development to non-agricultural uses

Hay harvest at Rutgers Snyder Farm, Pittstown

BPU New Jersey's cleanenergy program™

The Pilot Program: A Collaborative Effort

- Throughout the development of the Pilot Program, BPU consulted with other State agencies, in particular Agriculture and Environmental Protection.
- BPU also worked closely with the Rutgers Agrivoltaics Program (RAP). Under the Board's grant agreement with Rutgers University, RAP to serve as the primary designer & organizer of research studies for selected projects as part of the Pilot Program.
- BPU will continue to consult with these and other State partners to implement and evaluate the Pilot Program.

Dual-Use Pilot Program

- The Dual-Use Act permits a pilot program for 36 months, with possible extensions to 48 or 60 months.
- The Board **approved 200 MW (dc) of solar capacity** (PY) for the Pilot Program.
- Program Year 1 has a **capacity target of 65 MW (dc) for projects sized 500 kw-10 MW.**
- The **remaining 135 MW (dc) capacity** may be available during PY2 and PY3, depending upon the Board's decisions for Program Year 1.
- First Application Period-Solicitation 1 (Program Year 1) opened to new application submissions on January 14, 2026, and **closed to submissions on February 25, 2026.**
- Each Application packet will be **evaluated and scored** based on the evaluation criteria described in the November 21, 2025, Board Order and on the NJ Clean Energy website at cleanenergy.nj.gov.
- All Dual-Use projects will be **awarded or denied** through a Board Order to participate in the registration process.
- Program Year 2 **began on February 26, 2026**. Board approval via a Board Order is needed to open a solicitation.

N.J.A.C. 14:8-13.7 Solicitation Process

- Board Staff provide feedback on expressions of interest (EOIs) and inform applicants whether they are pre-qualified to submit an Application.
- Applications will build on the EOI, describing in detail the project design and specifying how the project will meet criteria established by the Board.
- The Board will consult with the Secretary of Agriculture and issue its decision for each project (i.e., approve, disapprove, or approve with conditions) within 180 days after receipt of the application.
- Therefore, the solicitation process will follow this sequence:

N.J.A.C. 14:8-13.6 Siting Requirements

NJDEP: NJ Solar Incentive Siting Tools

- The Act mandates:
  - Dual-use projects must be located on unpreserved farmland (as valued, assessed, and taxed under NJ's Farmland Assessment Act).
  - Land included in a dual-use project must remain in "active agricultural or horticultural use."
  - Dual-use projects are prohibited from locating on prime agricultural soils or soils of statewide importance in an agricultural development area, unless undertaken in association with a research study in coordination with a New Jersey institution of higher education.
- Dual-use projects are prohibited on the following land types, unless a waiver is granted by the Board:
  - Land in the Pinelands Preservation Area or land designated as forest land in a Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan
  - Freshwater or Coastal Wetlands
  - Land in the Highlands Preservation Area
  - Land preserved pursuant to NJDEP's Green Acres Program
  - Forested land and associated transition zones

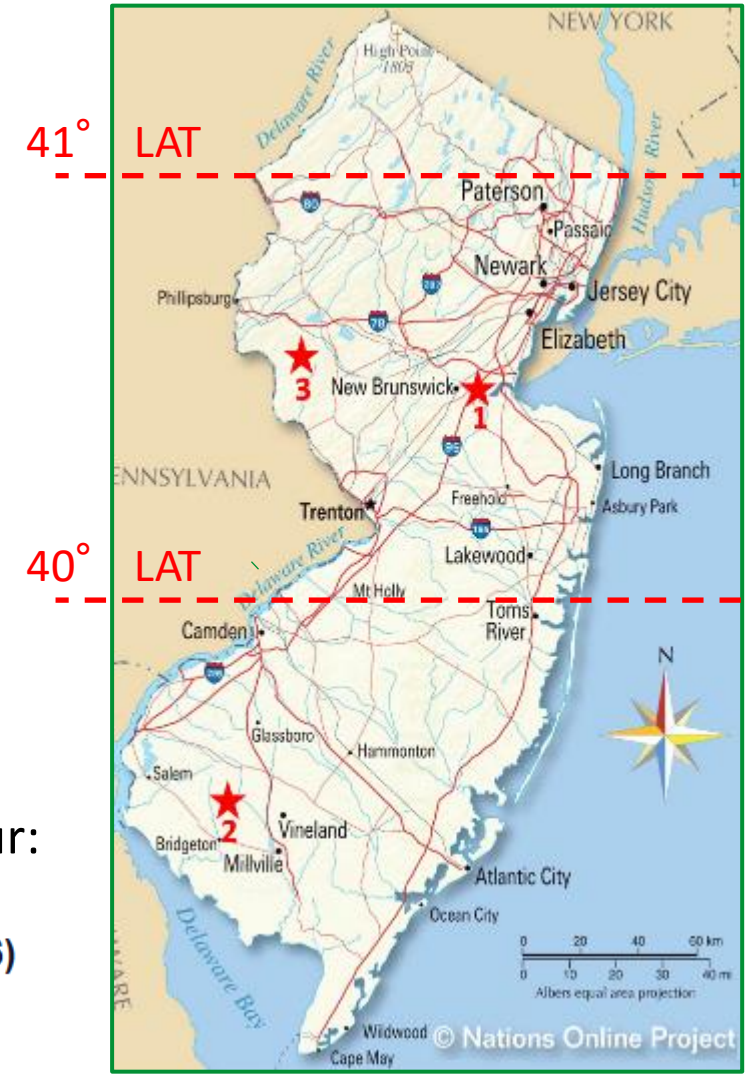
Challenges and Lessons Learned Thus Far…

Pilot Program is new and comes with internal challenges	• *New law, new rules, new teams, new processes, new Staff, new administrations*
Anticipated v. unexpected challenges	• *Rulemaking processes, stakeholder feedback, internal/external review processes, competing priorities*
Good public policy takes time to provide maximum benefit	• *Provide maximum benefit to ratepayers at the lowest cost*

Rutgers Agrivoltaics Program: Research Project Sites

https://agrivoltaics.rutgers.edu/

1. Animal Farm (170 kW_{DC})
   Forage and beef cattle
   Vertical bifacial
2. RAREC (255 kW_{DC})
   Vegetables and soybean
   Single-axis trackers
3. Snyder Farm (94.5 kW_{DC})
   Hay, Single-axis trackers



Regular site tours; the next tour:

APR 15 10:00 am – 2:30 pm
Agrivoltaics Tour Day (April 2026)

New Jersey's cleanenergy program™

THANK YOU!!

QUESTIONS?

Program Contacts

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njreinfo@njcleanenergy.com

1-(800)-624-0241

NJBPU Listserv:
https://www.nj.gov/bpu/about/contact/subscribe.html

NJCEP Listserv:
https://cleanenergy.nj.gov/