



## Rutgers University Selects SolarEdge Technologies for Its Agrivoltaics Research and to Assist the Development of the New Jersey's Dual-Use Solar Energy Pilot Program

July 1, 2024

*Outcomes from the Rutgers Research Program will be used to inform the establishment of the Dual-Use Solar Energy Pilot Program that will be administered by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU)*

MILPITAS, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jul. 1, 2024-- [SolarEdge Technologies](#), Inc. ("SolarEdge") (NASDAQ: SEDG), a global leader in smart energy technology, today announced that its technology has been selected by Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, as part of an innovative research and demonstration program to explore the potential of dual use agrivoltaics (the combination of agricultural production and solar energy generation simultaneously on the same land) for farmers across the state.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20240630118990/en/>



Snyder Research and Extension Farm in Pittstown used for hay production. credit: Advanced Solar Products (ASP)

Rutgers research will assist the Dual-Use Solar Energy Pilot Program that will be administered by the NJBPU. The pilot program is a three-year, 200 MW agrivoltaics initiative with the goal of exploring the feasibility and benefits of

agrivoltaics. The pilot program is a collaborative effort including the NJBPU, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, the State Agricultural Development Committee, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the Rutgers Agrivoltaics Program. The results and data from the research program will be used to inform the establishment of a permanent Dual-Use Solar Program in New Jersey. The Rutgers Agrivoltaics Program includes three sites, each using a different panel mounting method to investigate the impact on agricultural production and electricity generation:

- Rutgers Animal Farm in New Brunswick has vertically mounted bifacial panels and will be used for the production of forage crops and beef cattle grazing (170 kW<sub>DC</sub> installed and grid-connected)
- Snyder Research and Extension Farm in Pittstown has single-axis trackers and will be used for hay production (94.5 kW<sub>DC</sub> installed and 82.4 kW<sub>DC</sub> grid-connected)
- Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Bridgeton has single axis trackers with both single-wide and double-wide rows of panels and will be used for the production of vegetable and staple crops (255 kW<sub>DC</sub> installed and 48.6 kW<sub>DC</sub> grid-connected)

At each site, the research will evaluate electricity output, using Module Level Power Electronics (MLPE) for the measurement and analysis of energy production.

"Agrivoltaics is a fast-growing and hugely exciting sector that provides a solution for many of the business challenges that farmers are facing today – from managing rising energy costs to moving to more sustainable production. However, we are still at the start of this journey. The aim of our research is to develop knowledge that will help to establish practices that can help improve both the sustainability and viability of farms through safe and regulated adoption of solar energy. We are excited to be working with SolarEdge to achieve these goals," said Margaret Brennan-Tonetta, Director for Resource and Economic Development and Senior Associate Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.

Bertrand Vandewiele General Manager of SolarEdge in North America, said: "Agrivoltaics is a perfect example of a real 'win-win'. This practice allows for expanded solar development to address climate change, without the land-use challenges often associated with ground mounted solar developments. It can also provide benefits for farmers, allowing a stable revenue stream and protection against climate hazards. In the U.S., there are more than 500 Agrivoltaics sites, producing a total of 9 GW of solar energy<sup>1</sup>. These numbers are likely to grow as interest in Agrivoltaics has been greatly expanding, as indicated by the increase in support and funding for this sector. For example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's funding for Agrivoltaics more than tripled from 2021 to 2022<sup>2</sup>.

Farmers are able to move to more sustainable and profitable production without substantially reducing space for growing crops – in fact agrivoltaics can potentially boost the production of certain shade-tolerant crops by providing protection from direct sunlight, while the cooler temperature below the panels reduces water evaporation. Meanwhile, the end consumer can feel good about choosing produce from sustainable farms. Through this collaboration with Rutgers University, we look forward to playing our part in helping to advance the adoption of more sustainable and profitable farming practices."

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### About the Rutgers Agrivoltaics Program:

The Rutgers Agrivoltaics Program (RAP) is a multidisciplinary group of Rutgers faculty and staff committed to designing and conducting the applied agrivoltaics research and outreach necessary for New Jersey farmers to make informed decisions about adopting this technology, as well as its potential role in contributing to the State's renewable energy goals. RAP is part of the NJ Agricultural Experiment Station and Rutgers Cooperative Extension which provide research, outreach and educational resources to residents, communities, and businesses in New Jersey and beyond.

Please visit <https://ecocomplex.rutgers.edu/agrivoltaics-research.html> for more information. For media inquiries or more information about the Rutgers Agrivoltaics Program, please contact Dave Specca, RAP project lead, at [specca@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:specca@njaes.rutgers.edu).

## About SolarEdge

SolarEdge is a global leader in smart energy technology. By leveraging world-class engineering capabilities and with a relentless focus on innovation, SolarEdge creates smart energy solutions that power our lives and drive future progress. SolarEdge developed an intelligent inverter solution that changed the way power is harvested and managed in photovoltaic (PV) systems. The SolarEdge DC optimized inverter seeks to maximize power generation while lowering the cost of energy produced by the PV system. Continuing to advance smart energy, SolarEdge addresses a broad range of energy market segments through its PV, storage, EV charging, batteries and grid services solutions. Visit us at: [solaredge.com](https://solaredge.com).

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<sup>1</sup> According to the [National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#)

<sup>2</sup> [USDA ERS - Common Ground for Agriculture and Solar Energy: Federal Funding Supports Research and Development in Agrivoltaics](#)

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### Press

SolarEdge Technologies, Inc.

Lily Salkin Global Public and Media Relations Manager

[Lily.salkin@solaredge.com](mailto:Lily.salkin@solaredge.com)

SolarEdge Technologies, Inc.

Dana Noyman Head of Corporate Communications and Global PR

[dana.noyman@solaredge.com](mailto:dana.noyman@solaredge.com)

### Investor

JB Lowe Head of Investor Relations

[investors@solaredge.com](mailto:investors@solaredge.com)

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