

RENEWABLE ENERGY FACT SHEET

SOLAR HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE; TAKE IOWA FOR EXAMPLE



The **solar energy industry is poised for explosive growth** over the next decade and has potential to bring massive economic and environmental benefits to rural Americans.

Learn about these benefits and how you can help create a strong foundation for this emerging market.

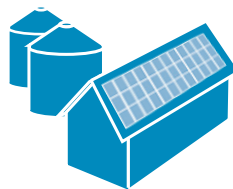
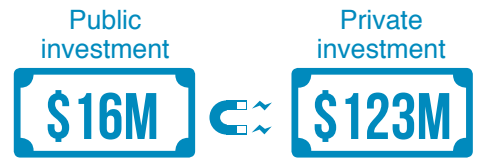
BRIGHT JOBS OUTLOOK

349 full-time solar workers in 2015* at 47 companies in Iowa; plus 626 part-time solar workers

373,807 employed by the U.S. solar industry in 2016, more than twice as many employed by the coal industry

TAX BENEFITS LEVERAGE PRIVATE INVESTMENT

From 2012 to 2016, Iowa invested approximately \$16 million in the solar tax credit to leverage \$123 million+ in private investment of solar energy systems.



On-farm solar accounts for a substantial percentage of Iowa's 2,500+ solar installations. Solar salespeople, installers and electricians live and work in rural communities, where they pay taxes, shop at rural businesses, and send their kids to rural schools.

PLUMMETING COSTS

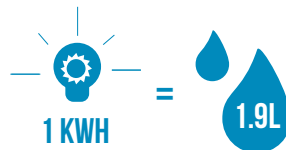
Solar energy is rapidly becoming cost-competitive with fossil fuel and wind energy, and in some countries is now the lowest cost energy source available.

Cost of a watt of installed residential solar (U.S. average)

2009:	2016:
\$7.06	\$2.93

PROTECTING RESOURCES

While in service, solar panels do not generate pollutants. An average 500-megawatt coal plant generates 200,000 tons of sludge and 125,000 tons of coal ash every year.



For every kilowatt hour of coal energy replaced with solar, we save 1.9 liters of water.

*according to the Solar Foundation

To find similar statistics for your state, visit www.thesolarfoundation.org

