Learn more

SOLAR IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

ABUNDANT | SAFE | ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

- Solar can provide safe and fair energy for rural areas, where people may lack reliable electricity. Having reliable, local generation can boost social and economic growth and prevent blackouts during natural disasters.
- Becoming energy independent can make people feel empowered and proud.
- Farmers and other landowners can lease their land for non-permanent solar projects to generate passive income, which can save family farms. According to the USDA, 96% of family farms depend on non-farm income to survive.
- Solar and agriculture make great partners. Solar panels can power irrigation systems and farm equipment, reducing long-term financial burden on farmers from rising utility bills. Solar can also be integrated into cropland or livestock pastures, maximizing land use and increasing crop resilience and water conservation.
- There are no known health effects from living near solar panels. The technology and its impacts have been studied since the 1950s.
- Solar infrastructure is removable---this form of energy does not leave permanent effects on the land.

Protect PT

protectpt.org/solar

Solar Success in Delmont, PA

The **Delmont Library** is a beloved community center that encourages learning and creativity in both children and adults. From the beginning, the library was designed as a **green building** that would be as energy-efficient as possible and reduce long-term operating costs for the small municipality. In the words of Dave Weber, mayor of Delmont Borough, **"it was the right thing to do."**

Photo courtesy of Dave Weber

The library features a **rooftop solar array**, six geothermal wells, two heat pumps, LED lights, and a rainwater catchment system, which is used to water the grass. There are also two electric car chargers outside, which are **free for public use.**

Installed in 2021, the solar array generates **40 kilowatts** (kW) of electricity, although the library's energy use averages around 10 kW. As a result, the library has **never paid an electric bill**. In fact, the utility pays the library for sending extra power back to the grid!

This innovative and **forward-thinking approach** to a public library is a way for Delmont Borough to set an example. Those who planned and fundraised for this project, like Mayor Weber, are proud to count the Delmont Library as part of their **legacy**.

Learn more about the library (or donate!) at www.delmontlibrary.org/