

Information About Getting Started on Agrivoltaics



Agrivoltaics Groundwork

Before contacting solar companies and starting the pre-construction phase, take the following steps (as shown in the image below) to determine whether agrivoltaics is a good fit for your farm.

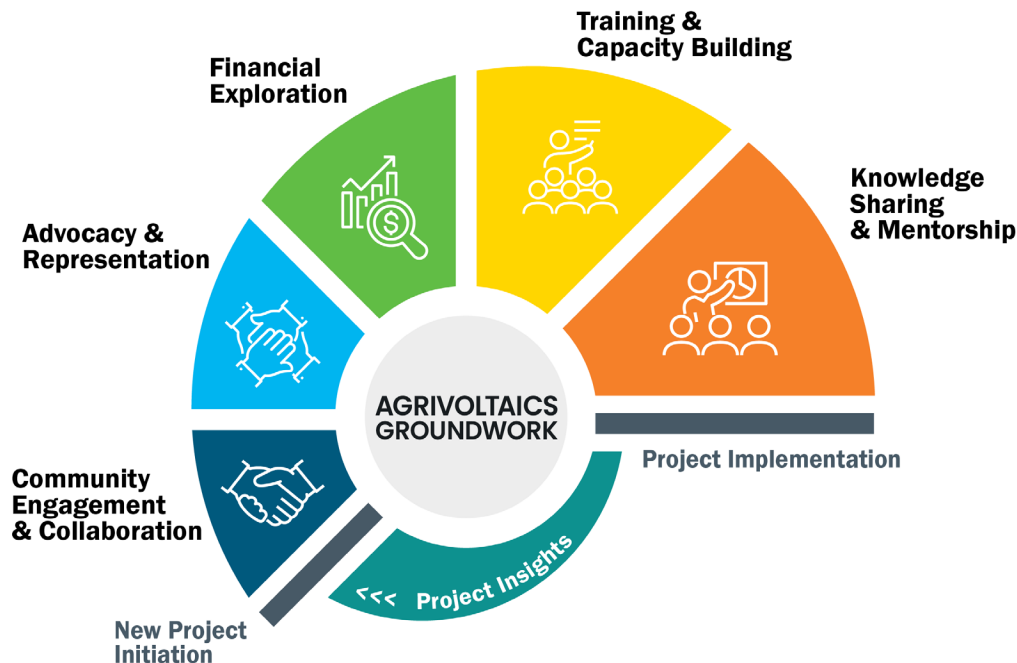


Image from: https://openei.org/wiki/InSPIRE/Getting_Started/Groundwork

1. Community Engagement & Collaboration: Build relationships with organizations and stakeholders that can provide technical, agricultural, legal, and community support.

- Connect with agricultural organizations, such as:
 - [UGA Agrivoltaics Initiative](#)
 - Your local [UGA Cooperative Extension](#) office
 - Your local [Georgia Farm Bureau](#) office
 - Your local [USDA's service center](#) to meet with staff from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
 - [Georgia Organics](#) to access resources for renewable energy adoption
 - Producer associations relevant to your commodity (e.g., the [Georgia Cattlemen's Association](#), [Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers](#))

Science for Georgia, Inc

1700 Northside Dr, Ste A7, PMB 916, Atlanta, GA 30318
Scienceforgeorgia.org • info@sci4ga.org

Information on Getting Started in Agrivoltaics in Georgia

[Association](#), the [Georgia Poultry Federation](#), etc.) to discuss how agrivoltaics may affect different farming systems

- Attend educational events on solar energy and/or agrivoltaics (if available).
 - UGA's Solar Energy in Rural Georgia [webinar series](#) for landowners
 - Review the Georgia Farm Summit's [conference archives](#)
 - Review the Solar Farm Summit's [conference archives](#)
 - Check the Team Agriculture Georgia (TAG) [website](#) for upcoming education events and farm conferences
- Engage with your local government by:
 - Meeting with county planning and zoning officials early to understand local permitting requirements.
 - Discussing your proposed projects with county commissioners and local utility representatives before submitting applications.

2. Advocacy & Representation: Help shape how agrivoltaics develops in Georgia.

- Engage with policymakers, agricultural organizations by participating in:
 - Georgia Farm Bureau's [policy development](#)
 - Proceedings before the [Georgia Public Service Commission \(PSC\)](#)
 - Attend the [Georgia Department of Agriculture's](#) public meetings, agricultural advisory committees, and outreach events
- Advocate for equitable access to:
 - USDA renewable energy funding.
 - Technical assistance through UGA Extension.
 - Educational opportunities for small and medium-sized farms.
- Stay informed about policy developments through:
 - The Georgia Public Service Commission's (PSC) [website](#)
 - The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority's (GEFA) [website](#)
 - Georgia Farm Bureau's legislative [reports and updates](#)

3. Financial Exploration: Evaluate whether agrivoltaics is financially viable for you before signing any agreements.

- Research funding opportunities, including:
 - The USDA's [Rural Energy for America Program](#) (REAP)
- Develop a farm-specific financial plan by:
 - Analyzing your farm's land, crops or livestock, infrastructure, and energy needs.
 - Estimating installation costs, operating expenses, and expected revenue.
 - Comparing potential agricultural production with projected energy-related income.

Information on Getting Started in Agrivoltaics in Georgia

- Determining whether agrivoltaics aligns with your long-term business goals.
- Estimate the potential return on investment (ROI) using available tools:
 - The Georgia Organics Solar Savings [Toolkit](#) and Solar Cost/Savings Estimate [Calculator](#)
 - InSPIRE's Agrivoltaics Design and Analysis [Model](#)
 - InSPIRE's Agrivoltaics [Shading Tool](#)
- 4. Training & Capacity Building: Prepare to manage an agrivoltaic system by building your knowledge and technical skills.**
 - Attend agrivoltaic training programs that focus on system design, installation, and maintenance (if available).
 - Participate in field demonstrations and farm tours, including:
 - UGA's College of Agricultural and Environmental Science's [field days](#)
 - Georgia Organics and partner organizations' on-farm [field days](#)
 - Access online resources and technical manuals, including:
 - Agrivoltaics/AgriSolar Clearinghouse's (NCAT) Best Practices in AgriSolar [Publication](#) and [other resources](#)
- 5. Knowledge Sharing & Mentorship: Learn from other farmers, agricultural professionals, researchers, and solar industry experts.**
 - Join farmer networks and online communities where producers, researchers, and solar professionals share agrivoltaic experiences, including:
 - Agrivoltaics/AgriSolar Clearinghouse's (NCAT) [newsletter](#)
 - American Solar Grazing Association's (ASGA) [meet a member page](#)
 - Southeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education's (SARE) [mailing list](#)
 - Georgia Organic's grower news [email signup](#)
 - Participate in mentorship programs and farmer-to-farmer learning opportunities, such as:
 - UGA Cooperative Extension's [commodity specialists](#)
 - Collaborate with researchers and professionals from the [UGA Agrivoltaics Initiative](#)
 - Collaborate with local USDA Service Center [staff](#)
 - Attend events where farmers, researchers, and industry professionals share project experiences, including:
 - Georgia Farm Bureau Annual [Convention](#)
 - [Sunbelt Ag Expo](#)
 - Georgia grown's [events](#)

Information on Getting Started in Agrivoltaics in Georgia

- UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Science's [events](#)
- Develop partnerships with universities and technical experts for long-term support, including:
 - Georgia Tech's [Strategic Energy Institute](#)
 - UGA [College of Agricultural and Environmental Science](#)
 - UGA [Extension](#)
 - National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) [InSPIRE](#)

Preparing to Begin

After you complete these steps, you can prepare to begin your agrivoltaics project by:

1. Preparing a land information packet

- Acreage available
- County and parcel IDs
- Current crops/livestock
- Soil type and irrigation information
- Nearby transmission lines/substations
- Floodplain/wetland information
- Desired agricultural use under panels

2. Contacting 3–5 solar developers

- Ask specifically for an agrivoltaic lease structure, not a standard solar lease.
- Request discussion of:
 - license/exclusivity agreement
 - option-to-lease terms
 - construction timeline
 - operating lease payments
 - crop/livestock integration plan
 - decommissioning bond

3. Contact an agrivoltaic specialist

- This can help prevent a solar-only design that makes farming difficult later.

The Installation Process

The [process for installing agrivoltaics](#) typically begins with pre-construction negotiations (including site selection, feasibility assessments, and development planning and approvals). During this stage, the parties usually enter into an initial agreement (license and exclusivity), followed by an option to lease while project approvals are being obtained. Once an agrivoltaic license is established, the project proceeds. The lease

Information on Getting Started in Agrivoltaics in Georgia

begins and continues throughout the construction, operation, and decommissioning stages.

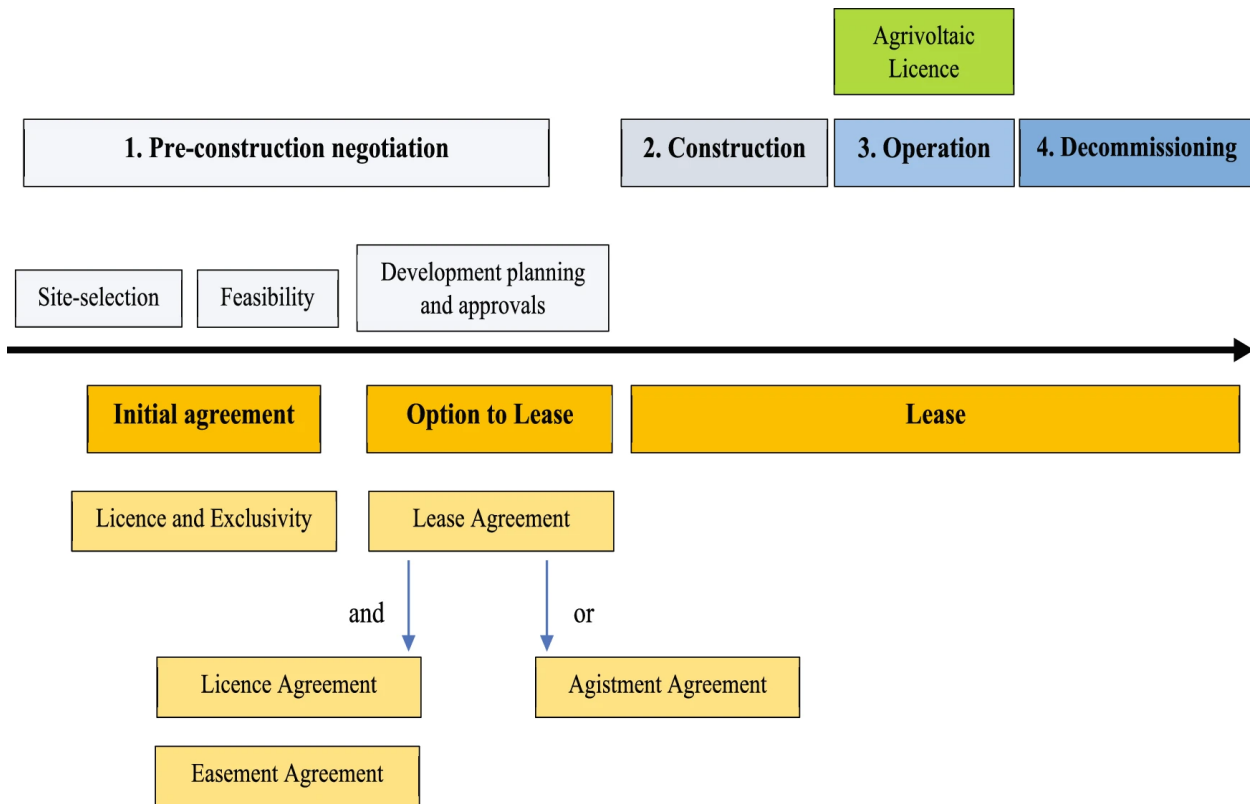


Image from: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11625-025-01668-w/figures/6>

Additional Information

For more information, please visit:

- Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs)
- Solar Policy and Regulation
- Utility-scale solar developers:
 - [Silicon Ranch](#)
 - [GOLDI America](#)
 - [Pivot Energy](#)
 - [Energy Right](#)
 - [Nevados](#)
 - [Encore Renewable Energy](#)
 - [Renewvia Energy Corporation](#)
 - [Cypress Creek Renewables](#)
- Agrivoltaic/solar-grazing specialists:
 - [United Agrivoltaics](#)

Information on Getting Started in Agrivoltaics in Georgia

- [American Solar Grazing Association](#)
- Land and wildlife conservation specialists:
 - [Atlantic Coast Conservatory](#)
 - [The Nature Conservancy](#)
 - [Renewable Energy Wildlife Institute \(REWI\)](#)
- Other:
 - [Bee the Change](#)
 - [Solar Land Agent](#)
 - [Georgia Solar Grazing](#)