# BRINGING SOLAR TO MONTEVIDEO

## LANDOWNER CASE STUDY: DAVID AND LONI EID

> *"I believe strongly in renewable energy, and I'm proud that we power a majority of our town with renewable energy."*
>
> *– David Eid, Farmer*

### REQUIREMENTS:

Developing a solar community project in Montevideo, MN that would contribute clean energy to the local, rural community with energy cost-savings to the town and local businesses, and generate long-term income for David and Loni Eid.

### SOLUTION:

The Eid family agreed to lease a portion of their land to OYA Solar. In return OYA Solar used their experience and expertise to obtain local, state and federal permits and educate the local county representatives.

David and Loni are third-generation farmers in Montevideo, Minnesota with a 46-acre plot of available land for solar. After 40 years of working the land, they were open to exploring other sources of income and changing the use of their land. They decided to lease a portion of their property to OYA solar to develop a community solar project and now produce 9.5 GWh in power annually (approximately 950 homes).

**STABLE LONG-TERM INCOME**

**LOCAL ENERGY FOR THE COMMUNITY**

**ENVIROMENTALLY FRIENDLY**

### EDUCATING THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY

Some people in the county had concerns about the solar project and the development process, such as potential clean-up costs and decommissioning, and impact of panels on soil. OYA and the Eids worked together to educate the community to allay any fears and now, the Eids receive many compliments from their neighbors.

*"After it was built, I had many people approach me and [ask], 'How did you do that?' 'How did you find someone to build?'"*

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## RESULTS:

The family farm now generates enough power for 950 homes (9.5 GWh) and is powering the local community with clean energy and significant savings. One early subscriber, the town of Montevideo, will save $5.5 million on their energy costs over 25 years.

**SYSTEM SIZE: 7.50 $MW_{DC}$**
**SOLAR FARM SIZE: 46 ACRES**

*"This is just a different way of using the sun and it has no impact on soil. We can let the soil rest for 25 or 30 years and it can easily be returned to farming."*

**Interested in leasing out your land for solar?**

***Contact us today***


**1-844-516-9343**
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## NAVIGATING PERMITTING AND OTHER REGULATIONS

As is common with solar project development, the Eid family project required a complex array of permits, approvals and sign-offs from various local, state and federal agencies, along with a detailed engineering and coordination effort with the electrical utility company for interconnection – many solar projects stall at the permitting and interconnection stage. The experienced team at OYA Solar worked closely with the utility company's engineering team, local officials, the County and all other authorities having jurisdiction to bring the Eid family project to completion.

## BUILDING A STABLE INCOME SOURCE FOR THE NEXT 25 YEARS

David and Loni are now earning significantly more income than they would have through farming the same portion of land. A twenty-five year lease represents a stable income for themselves and their children through long-term, reliable income while opening up opportunities for new environmentally friendly land uses, such as beekeeping or sheep farming.

*"The financial stability of the project is significant to us and the rent is higher than for cash crops."*

## GENERATING LOCAL GREEN POWER

The Eid family is proud to be contributing to green renewable energy that is locally generated and for their community. They say it's a good example for their children and the right statement to make.

## PRESERVING FARMLAND FOR FUTURE USE

David Eid views this as reusing the land for a new purpose, instead of taking away farmland. As their new project, they have seeded bee pollinator plants that prevent soil erosion, while also letting the land lie fallow.

*"The environmental aspect of our land [is another benefit we see]. We were able to plant wildflowers and bee friendly pollinators ... and the land could rejuvenate itself."*