

Media Release

Tuesday 22 July 2025

New guide to help developers and landowners blend renewables with agriculture

[Guide available here.](#)

A new handbook empowering landowners and solar developers to harness the benefits of combining agriculture with solar energy is now available.

EnergyCo will launch the Agrivoltaics Handbook, a guide to preserving productive agricultural practices while meeting the state's growing renewable energy needs. It was developed by Farm Renewables Consulting and Progressive Agriculture, with support from EnergyCo.

The handbook includes:

- information for landowners wanting to graze sheep or cattle within solar farms, and/or grow crops and horticulture under solar panels
- guidelines for how developers can incorporate farming into solar systems
- comprehensive checklists of consideration in planning an agrisolar development.

It expands the information available and guides leading industry practices as we work with regional communities within Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) to deliver a modern electricity grid for NSW.

Benefits for landowners already implementing this two-in-one solution include diversified income streams, shading for stock, heat and hail protection, and vegetation management.

Quote attributable to EnergyCo CEO, Hannah McCaughey:

"Farmers that host projects are crucial to the success of our renewable energy zones. Having more practical information available on the opportunities and benefits empowers host communities and shows compatibility between renewables and our important agricultural industries."

Quote attributable to Farm Renewables Consulting Director, Karin Stark:

"Early engagement with landowners is important when shaping how renewable energy projects can coexist with farmland. The Handbook comprehensively guides landowners and developers from planning and design, all the way through to maintenance."

The guide will be available on the [EnergyCo website](#).

What is a Renewable Energy Zone?

Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) group new wind and solar power generation into locations where they can be efficiently stored and transmitted across NSW. Five zones have been identified and will keep NSW electricity reliable as coal-fired power stations retire, delivering large amounts of new energy to power our regions and cities.

REZs will help deliver lower wholesale electricity costs and place downward pressure on customer bills through increased competition, while supporting local jobs and business opportunities during construction and operation.

END.

MEDIA: Zerene Catacutan | media@energyco.nsw.gov.au | 0475 882 033