

SMART GROWTH THROUGH SOLAR INCENTIVES

LEWIS COUNTY IDA

WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT SOLAR?



Solar companies are actively seeking incentives for proposed projects in Lewis County



Lewis County currently has over 2,800 acres of proposed development



Agricultural land has high economic value in our community and is our largest industry



We can welcome renewable energy while protecting our largest industry at the same time



Encouraging smart, thoughtful and planned solar development for our communities

OUR APPROACH

UTILIZE LEWIS COUNTY IDA UNIFORM TAX EXEMPTION POLICY (UTEP) TO DETERMINE INCENTIVE RATES BASED ON:

- If land is actively farmed and contributing towards commercial agriculture
- Land/soil type as defined by USDA
 - Prime / Prime if Drained / Land of Statewide Importance
- Developers will receive a more attractive incentive for utilizing land that is considered "marginal" and that is not actively being farmed!

OUR INTENT

PRESERVE AGRICULTURE

- Preserve our largest industry and best agricultural land
- 12% of all land in Lewis County is cropland
- Agricultural lands are "easier" to develop because they are generally large, flat, undeveloped lots.
- Our best agricultural land is worth more to us - we want developers to "think twice" about pursuing prime ag lands

BETTER INCENTIVES FOR USE OF LOW QUALITY LAND

- Providing better incentives for use of low quality land is necessary to preserve long-term viability of our agriculture industry

KEEP LANDOWNERS RIGHTS, THEIR RIGHTS

- If developers want to develop on prime agricultural land, they can still come to an agreement with a land owner - they will receive less of an incentive because that land is worth more to our economy