



QUAPAW NATION

HARVARD CLIMATE SOLUTIONS LIVING LAB

# MICROGRID SOLAR & AGRIVOLTAIC OPPORTUNITIES

## TEAM #4

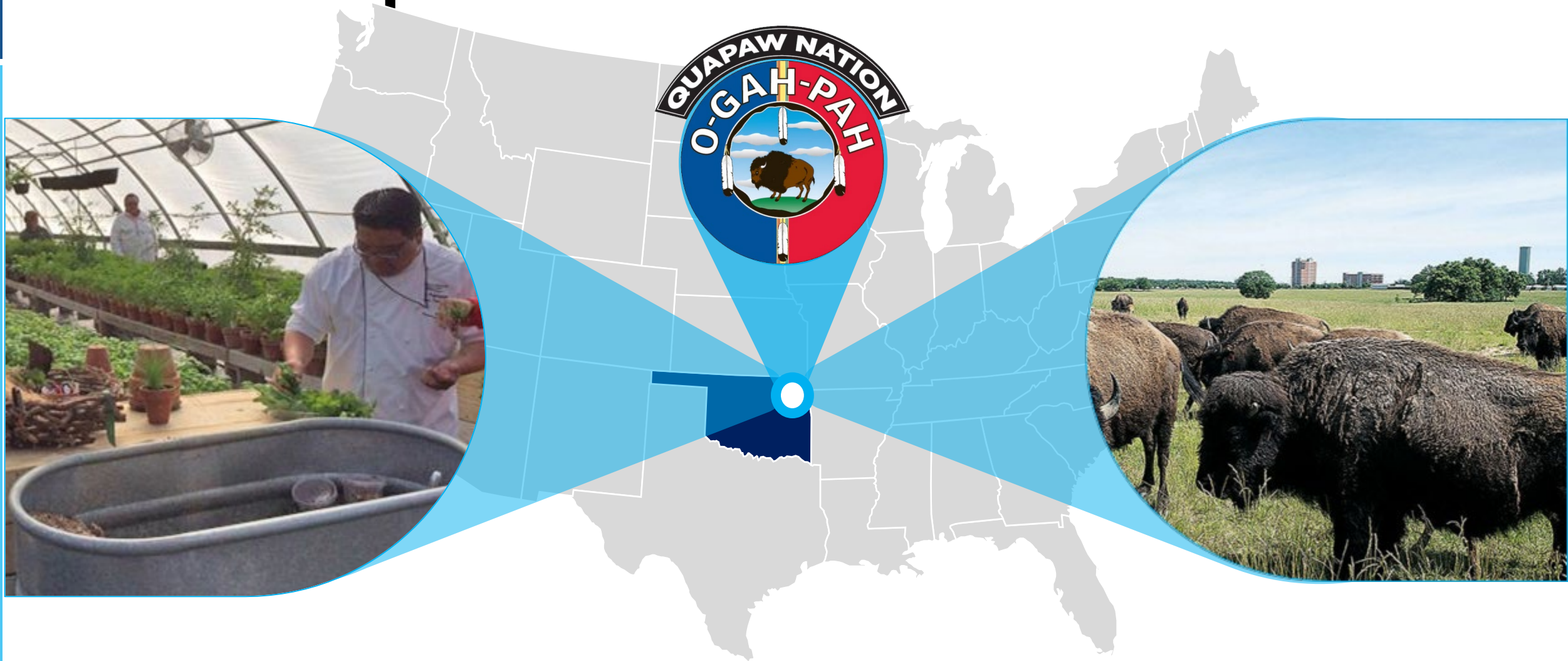
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NOBUHIRO MITSUOKA

# Presentation

April 20, 2022



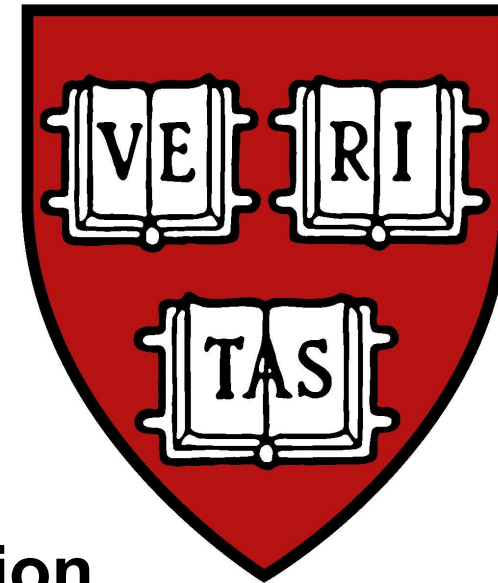
# The Quapaw Nation



# A Partnership for Climate Action



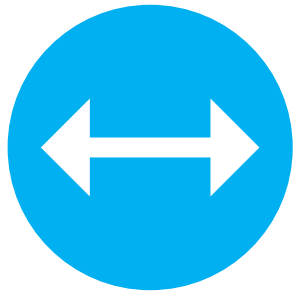
**Goals Alignment  
Continued Collaboration**



# Addressing Land Use Tensions



Demand for **renewable energy** (e.g., solar)

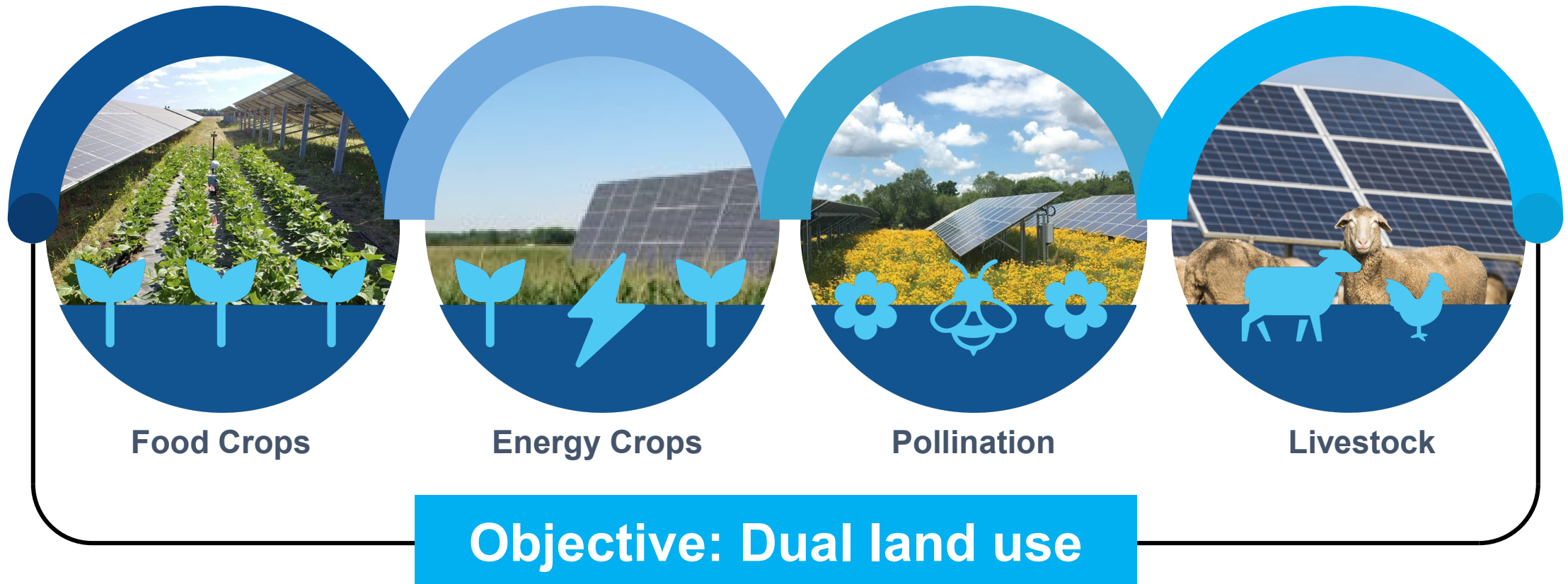


Tradeoff between **energy** vs. **food production**

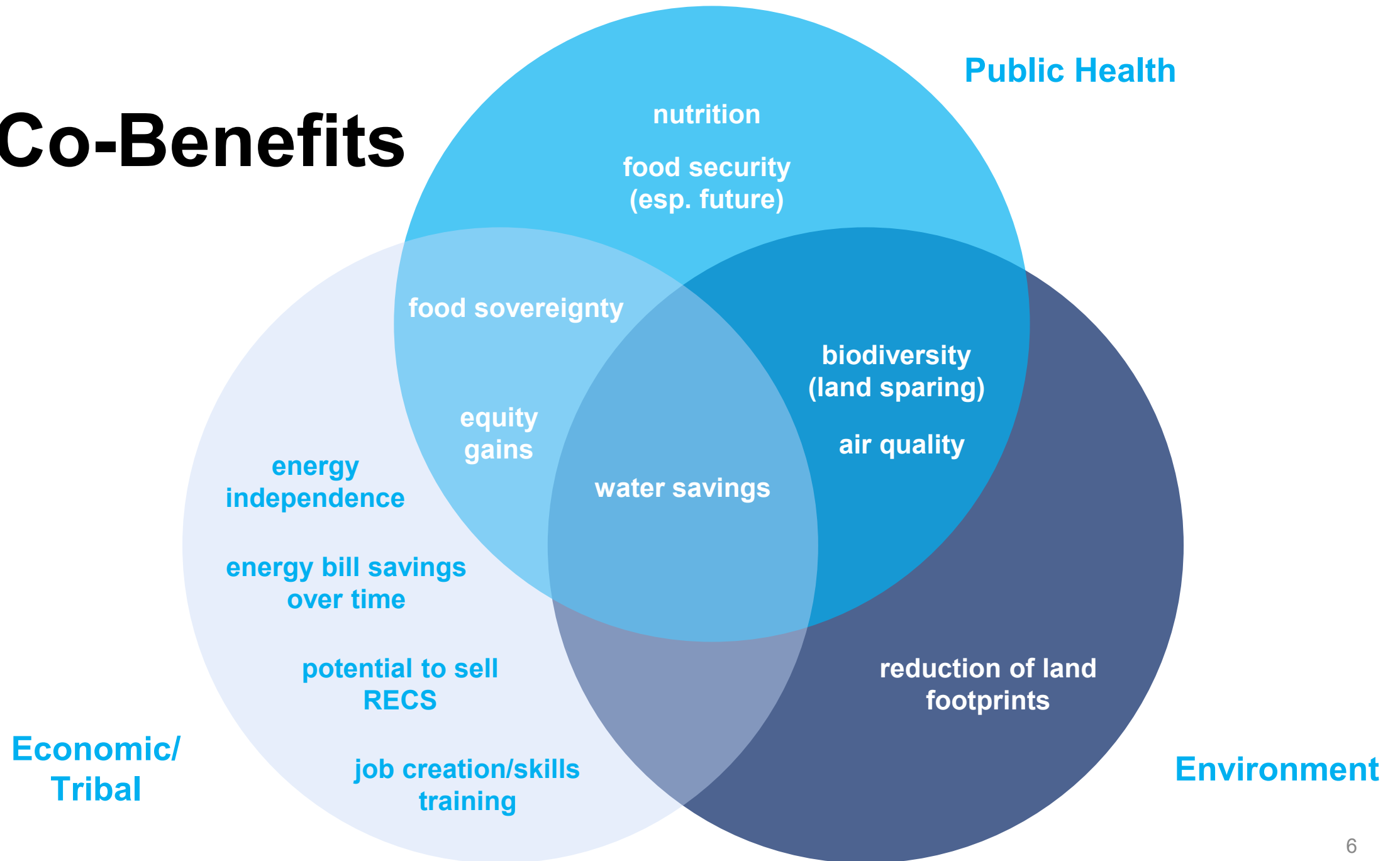


# Agrivoltaics

solar photovoltaic (PV) panels + agricultural operations



# Co-Benefits



# Project Criteria





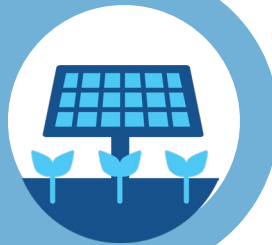
1

Ground mount solar



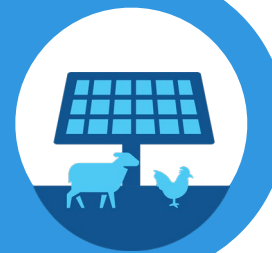
2

Ground mount solar  
+ crops



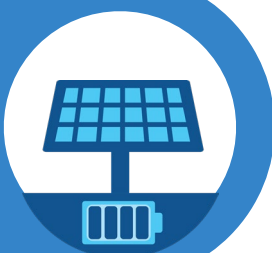
3

Ground mount solar  
+ grazing



4

Microgrid [solar +  
storage] + agrivoltaics



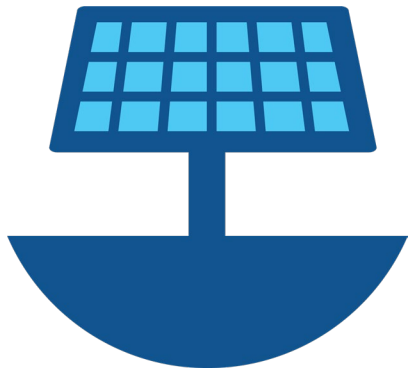
# Scenarios



# Scenario 1

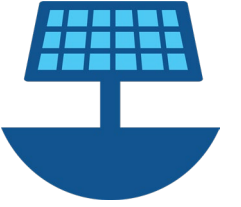
## Attributes

- Ground mount solar
- No agrivoltaics



## Good option for

- ✓ Technical feasibility
- ✓ Economic feasibility
- ✓ Environmental Sustainability



## **Forefront Power, Illinois**

5 MW DC

Ground Mount Solar



## **Ute Tribe, Colorado**

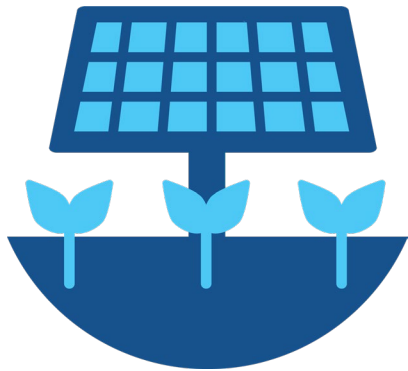
1.3 MW DC

Ground Mount Solar

# Scenario 2

## Attributes

- Ground mount solar
- Crop/pollinator agrivoltaics



## Good option for

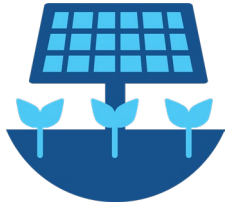
- ✓ Agricultural production
- ✓ Technical feasibility
- ✓ Environmental Sustainability





## 56 Brewing/Bare Honey, Wisconsin

Various Agrivoltaic Pollinator Projects



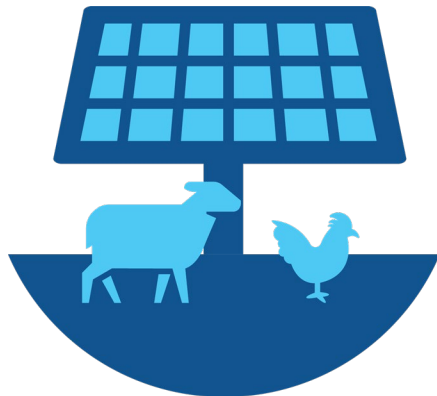
## Jack's Solar Garden, Colorado

1.2 MW  
Vegetable Farm and Artist Community

# Scenario 3

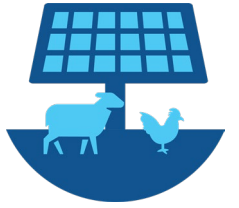
## Attributes

- Ground mount solar
- Grazing agrivoltaics



## Good option for

- ✓ Agricultural production
- ✓ Environmental Sustainability



**Blue Prairie Solar, Wisconsin**  
3.1 MW DC  
Sheep Grazing



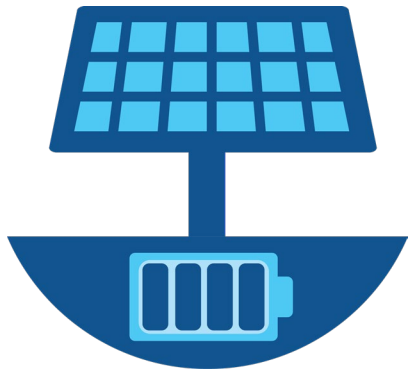
**University of Minnesota**  
50 kW Pilot Project  
Cow Grazing



# Scenario 4

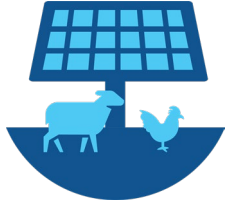
## Attributes

- Microgrid [solar + storage]
- Agrivoltaics



## Good option for

- ✓ Agricultural production
- ✓ Environmental Sustainability
- ✓ Sovereignty & Good Governance



## Blue Lake Rancheria, California

420 kW DC Solar

1.2 MWh Battery Storage

Microgrid [No Agriculture]



## Ishkonige Nawadide Solar, Wisconsin

500 MW DC Solar

1 MWh Battery Storage

Microgrid [Crops]

# How do metrics add value?

## Setting requirements

- Enables a more specific Request for Proposal (RFP), improving the quality of project proposals submitted by contractors

## Visualizing tradeoffs

- Enables efficient comparison of projects with different benefits and limitations
- Enables comparison of quantitative and qualitative impacts
- Allows project proposals to be compared against benchmarks and case studies



# Evaluation tools

	Category	Description	Weighting
GOALS	Electricity production	<i>Does the project generate sufficient electricity, and do so reliably?</i>	12
	Agricultural production	<i>Does the project create sufficient dual-use land for agricultural uses?</i>	12
	Environmental sustainability	<i>Will the project reduce GHG emissions and align with the tribe's ecological values?</i>	12
	Economic feasibility	<i>Is the project cost-effective, and are the financial and legal risks bearable?</i>	10
	Technical feasibility	<i>Is the project technically sound, with limited anticipable risks?</i>	10
	Sovereignty and good governance	<i>Does the project create tribal ownership and community engagement?</i>	8
CO-BENEFITS	Energy independence	<i>Does the project reduce the tribe's reliance on imported electricity?</i>	7
	Food sovereignty	<i>Does the project reduce the tribe's reliance on food imports?</i>	8
	Public health improvement	<i>Does the project improve the tribe's air, water, nutrition, and general well-being?</i>	5
	Economic opportunity	<i>Does the project generate revenue and jobs for the tribe?</i>	8
	Tribal leadership	<i>Does the project create opportunities for knowledge sharing with other tribes?</i>	8
TOTAL (must add up to 100)			100

## Step 1

Decide on relative weights of the possible goals and co-benefits  
(illustrative)

# Evaluation tools

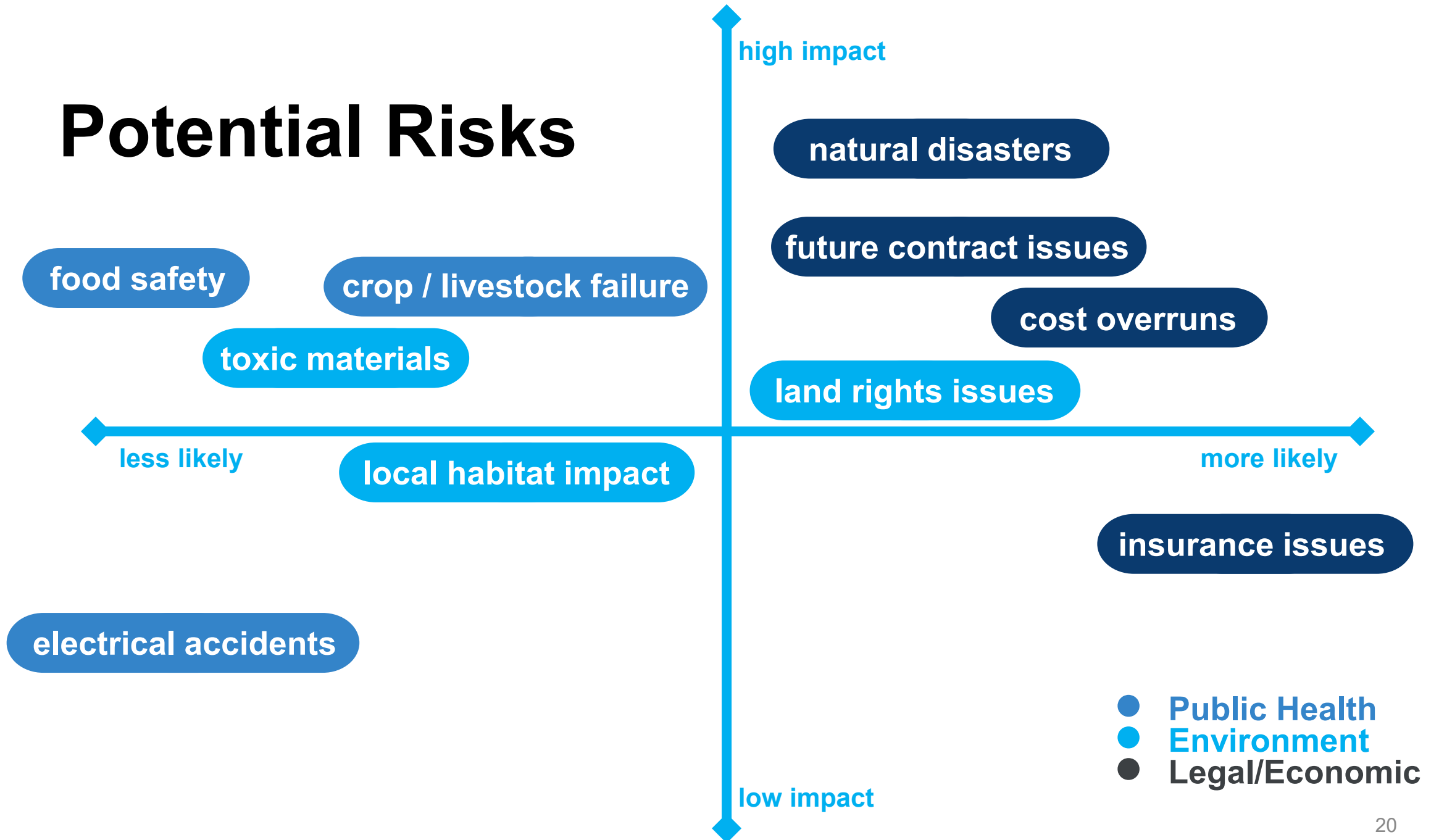
## Step 2

For each project, quantify performance along the different criteria

	Category	Description	Weighting
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CO-BENEFITS	Energy independence		
	Food sovereignty		
	Public health		
	Economic opportunity		
	Tribal leadership		

	Scoring guidelines			
Criteria	1	2	3	4
One-time capital expenditures (CAPEX)	>\$6 million	\$5-6 million	\$4-5 million	<\$4 million
Annual operating expenditures (OPEX)	>\$18,000	\$9,000-18,000	\$2,000-9,000	<\$2,000
Financial and contracting risk	High risk	Moderate risk	Low risk	Minimal or no risk
Eligibility for grant funding	No			Yes
Insurability	High risk	Moderate risk	Low risk	Minimal or no risk
Additional grid connection costs	No			Yes

# Potential Risks



# Key Takeaways

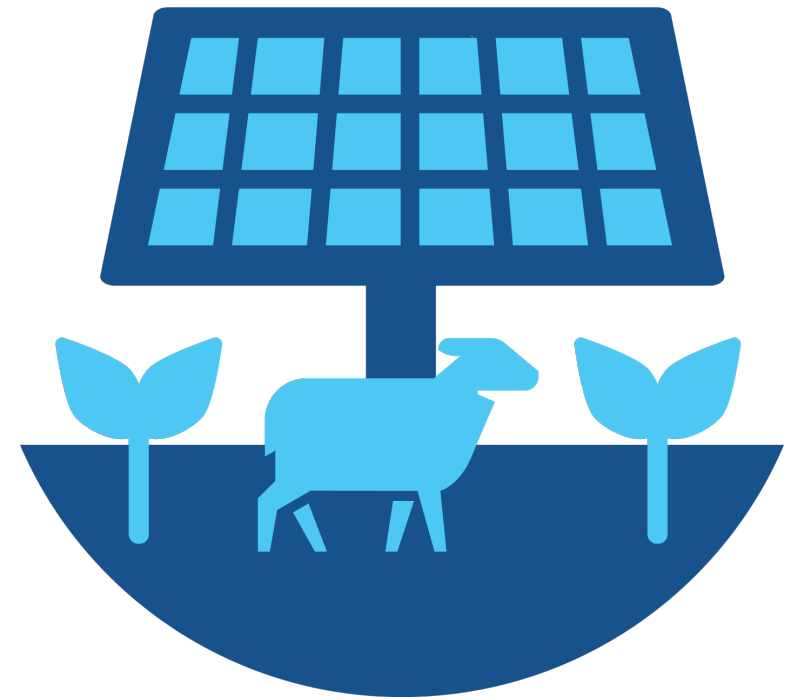
## *Multiple priorities*

- Climate mitigation
- Agricultural production

## *Agrivoltaics*

Potential solution enabling renewable energy and dual land use

- Co-benefits
- Scalability





# THANK YOU!



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HSPH



**Andrew Wei**  
HKS



**Charlotte Ross**  
HKS



**Aoife Blanchard**  
GSAS



**Mauro Morabito**  
HKS



**Ethica Burt**  
GSD



**Nobuhiro Mitsuoka**  
Subject Matter Expert

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