

2021BCDCC-100-AGR-20210325-Agrivoltaics Benefits to Eastern Washington

Whereas, eastern Washington state is experiencing reduced precipitation which impacts agriculture;

Whereas, eastern Washington state is experiencing drop in water levels of aquifers;

Whereas, eastern Washington state can benefit from increasing profitability and expansion of smaller scale specialty farming with reduced water needs;

Whereas, eastern Washington state is a prime area of Solar Power Developments: and long standing agricultural industry;

Be is resolved that:

Washington state democratic party shall work with State and Federal legislators, state agencies, WSU & federal legislators to seek funding for demonstrations in applying agrivoltaics;

They will focus on likely crops such as berries, melons, speciality and heritage (landrace) plants and grazing speciality heritage livestock based on the programs underway at the University of Arizona (1)(2), Colorado State University(4), and National Energy Research Laboratory(3) in Boulder, Colorado;

Democratic party should contact Energy Northwest about the new Solar Panel Demonstration regarding a collaboration with Richland Wa WSU Branch Campus to implement agrivoltaic demonstrations in conjunction with their solar panel array as part of a demonstration program;

Funding will be sought from USDA (National Institute of Food and Agriculture), USDOE NREL(Boulder, Colorado) and private foundations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation;

Agrivoltaics technology could also be important in foreign aid programs in arid areas or areas that are getting drier due to Global Warming and associated Climate Change;

1. <https://research.arizona.edu/stories/what-is-agrivoltaics>

2. <https://news.arizona.edu/story/agrivoltaics-across-food-water-energy-nexus>

3. www.nrel.gov

4. <https://agsci.source.colostate.edu/researcher/researchers-testing-whether-speciality-crops-solar-panels-can-thrive-together/>