

The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Katherine Noble  
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Email: [86knoble@gmail.com](mailto:86knoble@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 208-720-5975  
Address: 86 Freedom Loop  
Bellevue, ID 83313

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power

Case ID: IPC-E-23-11

Comment: ""Global temperatures will pass a major milestone this decade, faster than earlier estimates predicted." NASA Scientist, James Hansen. We can't afford to discourage anyone from switching to clean power. So it is important that Idaho Power recognize the value of rooftop solar and solar installations on farms. Idaho Power should be forming partnerships with the people of Idaho, not trying to be a monopoly.

Minnesota solar companies are offering 20 year leases to farmers for solar installations, and then finding sheep and goat farmers to contract graze the land under the panels. This is happening in Hawaii, the Northeastern states, and up and down the east coast as well as Montana, Colorado and all over France, Portugal, Spain and Italy. They have also learned that plants and solar panels don't compete for light. The panels utilize the green light spectrum and plants use the red spectrum so there isn't competition for solar light.\* It's a win win for all. Studies from Oregon State University show that grazing sheep on irrigated pasture not only increases the forage, but sheep grow faster because of the shade the panels provide, the forage lasts longer due to the partial shade, and the solar panels produce more power because they are cooler.

All Grazing animals need shade and solar panels can provide that. Cattle ranchers who have partnered with German power producers find that the cattle grow bigger faster, and power production increases at the same time.\* By utilizing farming acreages Power companies would not need to be proposing wind and solar installations on our public lands which all Idahoians want to keep natural and undeveloped.

The University of Colorado has worked with a 150 acre farm just north of Boulder grazing animals and growing vegetables under solar panels. Jack's Garden has been in operation now for 3 years and they have found that vegetables that get a couple of hours of shade each day grow faster, and solar panels over growing vegetation benefit from the cooler temperatures as well and produce more power.

Where my farm is locate there are relatively frequent power outages which I could alleviate for the power company if I had solar panels over my growing areas. However, the proposed Idaho power pricing changes would eliminate any advantages for the farmer. The benefits would all go to Wall Street, not the local Idaho resident and farmer.

If Idaho Power establishes fairer export rates and will keep them at the contracted price for 10 - 15 years, smaller organic farmers will be able to get bank loans and put in solar.

For these reasons, I would like to see Idaho Power rethink their approach to power production and consider the ways they could be of benefit to the people of Idaho, not the investment bankers.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my research and express my recommendations.

Sincerely,

Katherine Noble  
86 Freedom Loop  
Bellevue, Idaho

\*American Solar Grazing Association zoom programs \*jackssolargarden.com \*Ambrook Research"

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