

Press release

Green electricity above, crops below: RWE plants seedlings at its agrivoltaics demonstration plant

- **Raspberries planted; alfalfa and clover-grass mixture sown as pioneer plants; cereals, root crops and vegetables to follow in the coming years**
- **Three technical solutions for power generation and agriculture on one site**
- **Forschungszentrum Jülich and Fraunhofer ISE contribute scientific expertise; state of North Rhine-Westphalia provides funding**

Essen, 19 June 2024

Things are turning doubly green at RWE's [agrivoltaics plant](#) (Agri-PV) in the Rhenish mining area. Since the beginning of the year, around 6,100 solar modules have been generating green electricity, and now farmers have sown the first seeds and planted crops on the site.

On the approximately seven-hectare recultivation area on the edge of the Garzweiler opencast mine, RWE is using three different concepts to test how solar power generation and agriculture can go hand in hand – successfully and profitably.

In the first configuration, the solar modules are fixed and mounted vertically on the substructure. In the second concept, the modules are mounted on a movable axis, which allows them to follow the course of the sun from east to west. Last week, farmers from the RWE recultivation team sowed alfalfa and a mixture of clover and grass between the rows of modules. These plants prepare the soil for the cultivation of cereals, root crops and vegetables in the coming years. In the third solution, the modules were elevated on a pergola-like substructure. Below this, a farmer from the region has planted raspberries in pots. Among other things, this form of cultivation enables healthy plant growth with high yields and more predictable harvest times.

RWE intends to carry out important applied research at its demonstration plant. To this end, the interaction between plant growth and PV technology will be observed over a period of at least five years under different seasonal weather conditions. The aim is to develop suitable management methods and economic operating concepts for agrivoltaic systems on the basis of the knowledge gained.

Scientific support for the project is being provided by the Institute for Plant Sciences at the Forschungszentrum Jülich and the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems. The project is funded by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia via the [progres.nrw](#) programme for climate protection and the energy transition.

From 19 - 21 June, RWE will be presented at [Intersolar Europe](#), the leading trade fair for the solar industry, with its own exhibition stand (A4.520) and conference contributions.

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Images of the sowing and planting process as well as a [graphic](#) for media use are available at the RWE Media Centre (picture credit: RWE).

RWE

RWE is leading the way to a green energy world. With its investment and growth strategy Growing Green, RWE is contributing significantly to the success of the energy transition and the decarbonisation of the energy system. Around 20,000 employees work for the company in almost 30 countries worldwide. RWE is already one of the leading companies in the field of renewable energy. Between 2024 and 2030, RWE will invest 55 billion euros worldwide in offshore and onshore wind, solar energy, batteries, flexible generation, and hydrogen projects. By the end of the decade, the company's green portfolio will grow to more than 65 gigawatts of generation capacity, which will be perfectly complemented by global energy trading. RWE is decarbonising its business in line with the 1.5-degree reduction pathway and will phase out coal by 2030. RWE will be net-zero by 2040. Fully in line with the company's purpose - Our energy for a sustainable life.

Forward-looking statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements. These statements reflect the current views, expectations and assumptions of management, and are based on information currently available to management. Forward-looking statements do not guarantee the occurrence of future results and developments and are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Actual future results and developments may deviate materially from the expectations and assumptions expressed in this document due to various factors. These factors primarily include changes in the general economic and competitive environment. Furthermore, developments on financial markets and changes in currency exchange rates as well as changes in national and international laws, in particular in respect of fiscal regulation, and other factors influence the company's future results and developments. Neither the company nor any of its affiliates undertakes to update the statements contained in this press release.

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