

### Agrivoltaics: Co-locating agriculture + photovoltaics to increase food and energy production while decreasing water use Greg Barron-Gafford



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SCHOOL DISTRICT



The University of Arizona. School of Geography and Development

## Impacts of 'extremes' on ecosystem function (and the sustainability of our food-energy-water systems!)

Ambient Frequent intermediate

and small events



#### Consequences of More Extreme Precipitation Regimes for Terrestrial Ecosystems

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ALAN K. KNAPP, CLAUS BEIER, DAVID D. BRISKE, AIMÉE T. CLASSEN, YIQI LUO, MARKUS REICHSTEIN, MELINDA D. SMITH, STANLEY D. SMITH, JESSE E. BELL, PHILIP A. FAY, JANA L. HEISLER, STEVEN W. LEAVITT, REBECCA SHERRY, BENJAMIN SMITH, AND ENSHENG WENG

## We want to move to renewables, but those are also vulnerable



Barron-Gafford et al. (2016) Nature Scientific Reports

## What is the "Heat Island effect"?



Latent heat =associated with phase changes of water (mostly plant transpiration and evaporation)

Sensible heat =energy transferred that affects the temperature of the atmosphere

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better" Albert Einstein



# Applying plant & ecosystem ecology to renewable energy & food production



Create *novel ecosystems* to: 1. mitigate solar PV heat island effect 2. to improve renewable energy production 3. adapt food systems to survive peak drought and temperatures



## Applying plant & ecosystem ecology to renewable energy production



Adding vegetation to renewable energy may yield a suite of quantifiable benefits.

# Applying plant & ecosystem ecology to renewable energy production



Getting past an "either-or" in terms of our land allocation can open us to many important ecosystem services

# Applying plant & ecosystem ecology to renewable energy production



Photovoltaic System

Hybrid "Agrivoltaic" system

Agriculture System

Getting past an "either-or" in terms of our land allocation can open us to many important ecosystem services

## Can plants handle being grown in the shade?





#### We have to do the research to really identify which plants are suitable for this approach!

## Biosphere 2 Agrivoltaics Learning Lab



## Food - a win for carbon uptake!



## Food - a win for fruit production!



## Energy - a win for PV production!



## Water - a win for irrigation savings!



Microclimate change under the panels = water lasts longer in the soil

Soil moisture levels in agrivoltaic system after 2 days = control setting after about 2-3 hours

Can marginal lands now become arable lands?

> Can we actually reduce our irrigation water use?

## Other surprising findings in our first two years...



Agrivoltaics





#### Open-sun



#### \* Extending the growing season (changing the phenology)



## Other surprising findings in our first two years...



Agrivoltaics





#### Open-sun



\* Prevents freeze damage

#### \* Extending the growing season (changing the phenology)



## Working with K-12 kids to build resilience...



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALIZONA COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL GALDEN PROGRAM COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MORE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

#### Thanks to TRIF-WEES!



Water, Environmental, and Energy Solutions

## Working with K-12 kids to science learning...





Co-location of vegetation and renewables may modulate / moduler the sensitivity of these systems to extremes.

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## Examining wider adoption...

Exploring application across environmental gradients in the US

![](_page_20_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Picture_3.jpeg)

#### Thanks to TRIF-WEES!

![](_page_20_Picture_5.jpeg)

Water, Environmental, and Energy Solutions

#### PV + grazing

#### PV + pollinator species

![](_page_20_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Picture_10.jpeg)

## The Japanese call this 'Solar Sharing'

転廃地のノッソルルクコッンク: ▲ 厥 儿光电 ⊂ 辰未 を 同一 い 物
所で行い、モジュール性能、食料生産、節水効果を高めます

グレッグ・A・バロン・ガフォード、ミッチェル・パバオ・ザッカーマン、モーゼ・トンプソン 、ゲイリー・ナバン、レベッカ・L・マイナー、イザヤ・バーネット-モレノ、ヨルダン・マックニック

![](_page_21_Picture_3.jpeg)

#### Thanks to TRIF-WEES!

![](_page_21_Picture_5.jpeg)

### Green roofs + Photovoltaics

![](_page_22_Picture_1.jpeg)

Tucson, Arizona, USA

 Solar will be installed Summer 2019

2. Replicate installations of green roof basins

2. Replicate installations with food production

Research, Demonstration, Engaged learning

### Green roofs + Photovoltaics

![](_page_23_Picture_1.jpeg)

### Opportunity! Paris laws, Industry Partners, Interested researchers...

Living Green Roofs or Solar Panels Now 'Law of The Land' in France

![](_page_24_Figure_2.jpeg)

By Eric

![](_page_24_Picture_3.jpeg)

It's now required by law in France for any new buildings to have green living roofs or solar panels installed. This is a huge step forward in sustainable

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## Any thoughts or questions?

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![](_page_25_Picture_2.jpeg)

Water, Environmental, and Energy Solutions

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![](_page_25_Picture_6.jpeg)

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Research, Discovery & Innovation The University of Arizona® School of Geography and Development

## L'eggo our science: Let's play with Legos and develop hypotheses!

![](_page_26_Picture_1.jpeg)