WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:

determining, by a first node, a routing metric for individual nodes in a set of nodes, the routing metric for a respective one of the set of nodes being based on at least one of a power storage status of the respective one of the set of nodes or a solar power generation status of the respective one of the set of nodes;

receiving, by the first node, a network packet from a second node;

selecting, by the first node, a third node in the set of nodes based on the routing metrics; and

transmitting, by the first node, the network packet to the third node.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the second node is downstream of the first node; and

the set of nodes is upstream of the first node.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the routing metric for the respective one of the set of nodes is further based on a communication link status between the first node and the respective one of the set of nodes.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the communication link status is determined based on at least one of a communication link quality, a communication link cost, a communication link signal strength, a communication link signal-to-noise ratio, a communication link packet loss rate.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting the third node is further based on a priority level of the network packet.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting the third node comprises:
determining that the network packet is a high-priority packet; and
determining that the routing metric for the third node is above a threshold value.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting the third node comprises:
determining that the network packet is a low-priority packet; and
determining that the routing metric for the third node is below a threshold value.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting the third node comprises:
determining that a priority level for the network packet corresponds to the routing metric for the third node.

9. A network device comprising:
one or more transceivers;
one or more processors; and
a memory storing instructions that when executed by the one or more processors causes the network device to perform operations including:
determine one or more operational statuses for individual network devices in a set of network devices, the one or more operational statuses of an individual network device of the set of network devices including at least one of a power storage status for the individual network device or a solar power generation status for the individual network device;
receive, via the one or more transceivers, network traffic from a second network device;
select a path for forwarding the network traffic via the set of network devices based on the one or more operational statuses; and
forward the network traffic to a third network device associated with the selected path.

10. The network device of claim 9, wherein the one or more operational statuses for a respective one of the individual network devices in the set of network devices includes a communication link status between the network device and the respective one of the individual network devices.

11. The network device of claim 9, wherein to select the path, the one or more processors are configured to select the path based on a priority level of the network traffic.

12. The network device of claim 9, wherein to select the path, the one or more processors are configured to:

determine a respective routing metric for a respective path through each of the individual network devices in the set of network devices; and

select the path based on the respective routing metric for the path.

13. The network device of claim 12, wherein to determine the respective routing metric for the respective path through a respective one of the individual network devices in the set of network devices, the one or more processors are configured to determine a weighted sum of the one or more operational statuses for the respective one of the individual network devices.

14. The network device of claim 12, wherein to select the path, the one or more processors are configured to:

determine that the network traffic is high-priority network traffic; and

determine that the respective routing metric for the selected path is above a threshold value.

15. The network device of claim 12, wherein to select the path, the one or more processors are configured to:

determine that the network traffic is low-priority network traffic; and

determine that the respective routing metric for the selected path is below a threshold value.

16. A non-transitory computer-readable medium storing program instructions that, when executed by a first network device, cause the first network device to perform operations comprising:

determining a first routing metric for first path through a second network device, the first routing metric being based on one or more operational statuses selected from a first group consisting of a power storage status of the second network device and a solar power generation status of the second network device;

determining a second routing metric for a second path through a third network device, the second routing metric being based one or more operational statuses selected from a second group consisting of a power storage status of the third network device and a solar power generation status of the third network device;

receiving a data packet from a fourth network device;

selecting the first path based on the first routing metric and the second routing metric; and

relaying the data packet along the first path to the second network device.

17. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the first group further consists of a communication link status between the first network device and the second network device.

18. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein determining the first routing metric comprises determining a weighted sum of the one or more operational statuses selected from the first group.

19. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein selecting the first path is further based on a priority level of the data packet.

20. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the operations further comprise:

receiving a plurality of second data packets from the fourth network device; and

when the first routing metric is greater than the second routing metric, relaying more of the second plurality of data packets along the first path to the second network device than or along the second path to the third network device.