



Solar Energy

A Clean Solution for Today's Energy Needs



BYRON solar project

The Byron Solar Project is a proposed 200 MW solar facility that will be sited on approximately 1,600 acres of private land located in Dodge County (transmission continues into Olmstead County.)

The project will generate enough electricity to power 35,000 homes, provide tax and job benefits to the region, and contribute to Minnesota's renewable energy targets.

Construction could start as early as 2022 (at the conclusion of permitting) and be operational 18-24 months thereafter. Once the project is online, it is estimated that it will contribute more than twenty-two million dollars of new revenues for the County and Township.

More than 350 jobs will be created during construction (expected to last one to two years) as well as full time positions during operation, fostering significant long-term job growth along with other projects across the state within the renewable energy sector. Businesses that benefit from labor, services and material supply before, during and after construction include environmental consulting, project and construction management, surveying, geotech, construction services, equipment rental, landscaping, maintenance, and hospitality to name a few.

Agricultural Land

Solar projects are typically sited near existing electrical infrastructure that has capacity to accommodate additional generation. Projects are also generally sited on cleared land to help facilitate project permitting. EDF Renewables recognizes the significant amount of land required to accommodate solar projects and we put a great deal of effort into co-locating various forms of agriculture within our project sites. For example, we have worked to incorporate sheep grazing and foraging of bees, creating critical habitat for the declining bee populations on a 200-acre project in Ontario, Canada. The site yields 300 jars of honey and hosts 300 sheep annually. We want to engage with farmers in the community to include similar types of agrivoltaics (co-development of solar for electricity and agriculture) at this project.

Decommissioning

Decommissioning is the process of removing equipment (solar panels, inverters, transformers) and improvements (roads and fences) and returning the land to its prior use when a solar facility has stopped operating. This is paid for by the project owner, and not the landowner or municipality. To ensure these activities are planned for and funded, the project will post a security, sometimes in the form of a letter of credit, to cover the cost to decommission the facility. This security is required the state of Minnesota. The project cannot receive permission to operate without this commitment to cover decommissioning costs.

If project land was previously used for agriculture, any topsoil that was removed or disturbed during the construction, operation or decommissioning of the solar facility will be replaced so the land can be returned to farming.

The Byron Solar Project will generate about 435,000,000 kilowatt-hours (KWh) of clean electricity each year, which is equivalent to....



35,491+
HOUSEHOLDS
POWERED



66,447+
PASSENGER
CARS DRIVEN
OVER ONE YEAR



3.3M+
TONS OF
COAL BURNED

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Recycling and Disposal

The disposal of solar panels must conform to all governmental, environmental, and legal requirements. The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) established a national recycling program connecting US-based recyclers with business who have solar panels to recycle. Many components of the crystalline silicon panels can be reused and recycled, namely the metal, glass and wiring components, as well as the silicon cells which can be melted down to reclaim the silicon and various metals by specialty recycling companies.

Material Safety

Crystalline silicon panels that are manufactured using safe and non-toxic materials are proposed for this project. These modules are comprised of silicon, copper and aluminum, sandwiched between glass and a plastic encapsulant with an aluminum frame. These types of solar modules do not contain toxic materials and are the same type that are commonly installed on rooftops and schools.

Property Values

The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) has examined property values across the United States. Their studies demonstrate large-scale solar arrays often have no measurable impact on the value of adjacent properties and in some cases may even have positive effects.

Furthermore, the proximity to solar farms does not deter the sales of agricultural or residential land. Large solar projects have similar characteristics to a greenhouse or single-story residence and the integration of visual buffers, such as natural vegetation, trees, and green fences lessen the visual impact of the project from neighboring homes and roads.

We Know Energy!



16 GW
solar, wind &
storage projects
developed



11 GW
under Operations
& Maintenance



24 GW
in pipeline



567 MW
MN solar projects
in operation or
development



550 MW
MN wind projects in
operation

About EDF Renewables

EDF Renewables is a market leading independent power producer and service provider with more than 35 years of experience leading the way to a clean energy future with large-scale projects that put the economy, communities and the environment first.

EDF Renewables has developed, financed, constructed, operates and manages more than 16 gigawatts (the equivalent of 160 million 100-watt light bulbs) of renewable energy projects in North America over the last 35 years.

In Minnesota, the company built, owns and operates more than 600-megawatts of wind and solar energy projects (the equivalent of 6 million 100-watt light bulbs) and has an additional 550 megawatts in development, which is expected to produce enough power to offset more than 80,000 homes.

For more information or to share your feedback, please contact the EDF Renewables team by email at byronsolar@edf-re.com or by phone at 844.943.0723.

Let's talk energy.



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