



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Who is EDF Renewables?**

EDF Renewables (EDFR) 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 communities, economy, and the environment first. As a developer, owner, and operator of 300+ renewable energy projects, EDF Renewables is active in every energy market across North America.

EDF Renewables has developed, financed, constructed, and now operates and manages more than 18 gigawatts (the equivalent of 180 million 100-watt light bulbs) of renewable energy projects in North America.

## **Is EDF Renewables owned by the French government and will all profits benefit France?**

EDF Renewables Inc. is a U.S.-based company incorporated in Delaware, with its headquarters in San Diego, California, and offices across North America, including a regional office in Bloomington, Minnesota, and local offices in Bluffton and Huntington, Indiana. We have been operating in the U.S. clean energy sector for more than 35 years, bringing our expertise and investments to communities nationwide.

Our parent company is the EDF Group, one of the largest utilities in the world, based in France, with a decades-long commitment to renewable energy worldwide. Over the last decades, the EDF Group has channeled several tens of billions of dollars towards the investment of renewable energy projects in the U.S., contributing significantly to the country's economy by creating local jobs and supporting local industries – economic benefits that you can also expect from this project.

As with any successful business, EDF Renewables' profits are reinvested to facilitate growth and expansion of our U.S. operations. While a portion are distributed to investors in France, it's important to note that the EDF Group has channeled more capital into the country than it has distributed back to France, as the group's long-standing commitment to support continuous growth of renewable energy in the country remains in place.

Our investments in the Paddlefish solar project will create local jobs and support the communities in Wells and Huntington Counties. These benefits are independent of the nationality of our shareholders and will remain in the local area.

## **I don't hear much about solar in Indiana. Is this one of the first projects?**

There are already 2,299 megawatts (MW) of solar installed in Indiana. This is enough to power 285,000 homes. Indiana has invested \$2.7 billion in solar and the investments will only continue to grow. Indiana ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the country for installed solar capacity and Indiana is projected to add over 8,727 MW of solar over the next 5 years. Indiana is helping our country work towards

energy independence.

Learn more about solar in Indiana through the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA): <https://www.seia.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/Indiana.pdf>

### **What is Paddlefish Solar?**

The Paddlefish Solar Project is a proposed 350 MW solar photovoltaic project located in Wells County and Huntington County, Indiana. The project is expected to generate enough electricity to power more than 64,000 homes, provide tax and job benefits to the region, and contribute to Indiana's renewable energy commitment.

More information can be found on our website: <https://www.edf-re.com/project/paddlefish-solar-project/about/>

### **Who gets the power generated by Paddlefish Solar?**

Projects like Paddlefish Solar are typically built to serve local and regional demand. The reality of the power transmission grid is that it's consumed as it's needed first; electricity that is injected into the electric grid is consumed by the sources of demand closest to it—powering homes in Wells and Huntington—and any excess will flow through to the grid to the next area of demand in Indiana and beyond.

### **What are the Economic Statistics for this Project?**

The Paddlefish Solar project has an estimated \$300,000,000 of minimum investment in Wells and Huntington Counties. This means an estimated \$90,000,000+ of tax revenue to the county budgets (even with the proposed Abatement) that will be used on public services, infrastructure development, education, or healthcare.

In addition to funding county services, programs, and infrastructure, tax revenues from this project may allow the counties to avoid tax increases that would otherwise be required, or to cut taxes, while maintaining the same level of service.

### **Will we be able to choose EDF Renewables as our energy supplier?**

At this point, the electricity generated by the project would be sold to the merchant market and not available for direct purchase from persons or businesses in the local community. Electricity that is injected into the electric grid is consumed by the sources of demand closest to it so there is a good chance that power feeding into your home or business will come from the Paddlefish Solar Project.

### **How are you connecting to the grid?**

There are existing electric transmission lines that run through the project area and a substation which makes the connection to the grid feasible. The electricity will be funneled to a single connection point and then fed into the grid.

### **Are you using our tax dollars to build the project?**

No tax dollars are being used to build the project. The project only gets paid as electricity is sold to the grid.

### **Are the solar panels made in China?**

No, the solar cells are made in Indiana. EDF Renewables has signed a supply agreement for solar panels using solar cells *made in Jeffersonville, Indiana*, and assembled in Mesquite, Texas. This module supply agreement demonstrates EDFR's commitment to domestic sourcing by using Made-in-USA solar modules, which enhances our ability to minimize risks linked to trade uncertainties and supply chain fluctuations.

### **Why can't we keep getting energy the way we always have?**

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), Indiana consumes almost four times more energy than the state produces. Indiana is building new resources that will supply our future energy needs locally. The Indiana Office of Energy Development (OED) is managing the transition to address the new and emerging technologies. The OED considers reliability, resilience, stability, affordability, and environmental safety as new energy policies are developed for Indiana.

More information on Indiana energy estimates can be found on the EIA website:

<https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=IN> and on Indiana's energy policies on the Indiana State Government website: <https://www.in.gov/oed/indianas-energy-policy/>.

### **Why would a company want to put a solar project in a place like Indiana with the weather we have here?**

The site location and panel productivity are carefully studied for each solar project and project designs take factors such as average cloud cover and angle of the sun into account to optimize the design. Modeling software that accounts for flooding, seismic hazards, wind, hail, tornadoes, and lightning are also studied and EDFR's engineers design each site with all those factors considered.

The sun is a solar energy facility's closest companion, but that's not to say electricity won't be generated on a cloudy day. Just like you can get a sunburn on an overcast day, solar panels will continue to produce electricity during cloudy weather. With advanced technology, solar panels can convert both direct and indirect sunlight into electricity. Although energy production does decrease, panels will continue to produce electricity even though it may come from reflected light or light partially obstructed by the clouds.

Rain will limit energy production but is a safe way to clean panels that may have accumulated production blockers such as dirt, pollen, or dust. Clean solar panels will be more efficient and have higher energy production rates without small particles blocking the

sun's rays.

The panels used will be bifacial photovoltaic (PV) panels. This means they can harvest energy directly from the sun on the face of the panel as well as from the reflection of the sun off the snow beneath the panel. This allows the panel to be more efficient and productive in harvesting energy from the sun.

Operation and maintenance team members will be able to vertically tilt the solar panels to minimize the accumulation of snow on the panels. Once a snowstorm has passed through, the panels can return to tracking the sun and harvesting clean energy.

SEIA has more information about solar and weather at:

<https://www.seia.org/initiatives/what-happens-solar-panels-when-its-cloudy-or-raining>

### **What about hail?**

Hail can be a risk to solar panels in a similar way that hail is a risk to the roof of your house. Historically, most PV modules survive hailstorms and solar companies do assess the hail risk as part of the decision on where to locate projects. Prior to the construction of a solar project, solar panels go through rigorous testing for production and manufacturing approval. Their unique design allows them to withstand harsh weather elements such as hail, torrential rain, and wind. With advancement in technology, operation and maintenance team members can tilt the panels to avoid heavy impact from hail or other storms. If a panel is damaged, it will be replaced, and the damaged panel will be recycled.

More information about solar panels and hail can be found here:

<https://www.seia.org/blog/why-you-dont-need-worry-about-broken-solar-panels>

<https://www.energy.gov/femp/hail-damage-mitigation-solar-photovoltaic-systems>

### **How did EDFR decide on the location for the Project?**

There is a lot of planning that goes into the selection of a location for a proposed solar facility, primarily broken down into four main parts.

1. The ideal site has existing transmission infrastructure already in place with available capacity to handle the power the proposed project will generate.
2. The ideal site is near landowners who have enough flat land that is primarily free of environmental concerns (like wetlands or karst) and are interested in hosting the project.
3. The ideal site is near areas that have significant power demand with a solar resource aligned with its consumption needs.
4. The project needs to be economically feasible for it to be market competitive. Costs associated with transmission connectivity/upgrades, landowner participation, project

components (solar panels, steel, etc.), and construction impact the project's overall cost.

### **Why would you put solar on land that is currently being used for agriculture?**

Farmland is flat and cleared - two characteristics suitable for solar energy, as it reduces the need for extensive land grading and/or tree removal. Further, siting projects on and adjacent to working lands helps reduce the potential for conflicts with other resources of concern to stakeholders, such as wildlife and their habitat, and historic/cultural resources that can come up with projects pursued in previously undisturbed lands.

In most states, the land required is less than 1-2% of existing farmland—and even that is an overestimate, as it presumes all the solar facilities are sited on farmland, which is not necessarily the case. In fact, Paddlefish Solar project will only take 0.6% of farmland in Wells and 0.15% of farmland in Huntington.

If the U.S. were to ramp up solar energy generation to represent 45% of the grid, or 900 gigawatts, as analyzed in the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Futures Study, *only 0.6% of existing farmland would be required* (5 million acres of land) out of nearly 1.9 billion total acres of land in the 48 contiguous states, of which is approximately 893.4 million acres are farmland.

More information about land use for solar can be viewed at:

<https://cleanpower.org/resources/protect-private-property-rights-to-site-clean-energy/>

### **Do you pay landowners for right of ways (transmission lines, access roads, under or over ground cables)?**

Yes! Any property that will host project infrastructure will have a lease or easement agreement and will receive a form of compensation (typically annual payments per acre). Most of our land holdings are leased through a negotiated contract with landowners that contains commitments to drainage protection, decommissioning, and soil restoration, among others. In addition, we typically purchase 10-20 acres of land for a substation where the project will connect to the electric grid.

### **How are landowner rights accounted for?**

As stewards of the land, often spanning multiple generations, farmers are in touch with the best use of their land. Farmers have the right to utilize their property as they see fit and to farm the sun for electricity, just as they do today for food, fiber, and biofuels. Many landowners in Wells and Huntington Counties currently produce corn that is used for ethanol, and now some have chosen to produce energy from the sun to power the local community.

When landowners choose to use their land to farm the sun, they are simply choosing to provide another equally critical commodity: homegrown, American-made energy.

### **What are the benefits to a farmer leasing land to a solar company?**

Solar project leases offer consistency and assurances the typical agricultural farmer doesn't see very often. The lease generates long-term, stable, and dependable income and allows the landowner to retain ownership of their family farm for future generations. In many cases, the lease payments are higher than the typical crop lease, may provide an opportunity to purchase additional land to actively work, and the stability of the lease payments guards against the volatility of the agricultural market they might experience on other parcels they continue to farm.

### **Does the Project pay taxes at different rates than farmers do?**

Yes; once the project is in operation, the land that has panels on it will be taxed at the industrial tax rate, which is significantly higher than land with crops. The tax rate for solar in Indiana in 2023 was \$13,000 per acre. The project pays these taxes, not the landowner or the county.

In return for some tax-abatement provided by the counties for the first 10 years of the project operation, Paddlefish Solar plans to contribute to an Economic Development Fund which pays millions into county general funds. The benefit of these millions into the general fund is that the County Commissioners can choose what to spend this additional revenue on rather than the money being statutorily allocated to the same categories as taxes. Note that tax abatement is not applicable to land taxes and the premium solar rates will be paid in full over the lifetime of the project.

Solar facilities produce low-cost, clean power that can be a great economic development draw for industry. The tax revenue provides economic impact to the local school system and other community needs while requiring little-to-no county services in return.

Solar development provides:

- A steady source of income for local landowners;
- An improved tax base for the county; and
- The delivery of clean renewable energy to the utility grid. Renewable energy is in high demand by utilities and corporations, and it attracts economic development to areas where it is available.

### **Can the project stand on its own without subsidies?**

Currently, all energy generators, of all fuel types, are benefiting from some form of public subsidy. If we consider a level playing field where the other projects also forgo subsidies, then this project absolutely would be able to compete effectively. This is illustrated clearly in Lazard's *2023 Levelized Cost of Energy Analysis*, which provides a look at the cost of energy from different

sources without subsidies and include sensitivities that consider various subsidies. The 'Levelized Cost of Energy Comparison Unsubsidized Analysis' shows a pure unsubsidized analysis across all major generation forms. Lazard is a publicly traded, independent firm providing market analysis and investment advice across a variety of sectors. You can find this report at:

<https://www.lazard.com/research-insights/levelized-cost-of-energyplus/>

The two direct incentives that this project will utilize are County Tax Abatements (the project will pay into an Economic Development Fund in return for the abatement) and the federal investment tax credit (ITC) or production tax credit (PTC). The project can use either the ITC, which provides a one-time credit based on the total cost of the project which is granted at the time the project begins operation, or it can use the PTC, which provides tax credits for the first 10 years of project operation based on the project's energy production.

Important note: tax credits are not cash deposited to a company's bank account but are simply a discount that reduces the federal income tax liability of a company and/or its investors. The tax credit is only issued upon completion of the project.

### **Can a landowner or the County be left with a mess to clean up in 40 years when the project is over?**

Under a decommissioning agreement with Wells and Huntington Counties, EDF Renewables sets aside a surety bond in a form of cash held in escrow by the County Treasurer or a bank, or a letter of credit, or a bond before projects become operational. The amount is determined by two Indiana-licensed engineers of the counties' choosing. Every five years after operations begin, the amount of surety bond will be revised and adjusted to account for inflation and any other cost changes.

### **Are you clear cutting wooded lots to host the project?**

Projects like Paddlefish Solar are designed to avoid woodlots. Solar projects are sited to the greatest extent possible on lands that are already cleared.

### **Will there be a barbwire fence around the whole project?**

No; EDF Renewables uses agricultural style fence for perimeter fencing on our projects—not chain-link and not barbwire. Agricultural fencing (also known as welded wire) is selected because it is more durable and blends into the landscape better than chain-link. It has large openings so that small wildlife (rabbits, squirrels, birds) can pass through. Both Wells and Huntington Counties have ordinance requirements of at least 6-foot tall for locked gates and perimeter fencing.

Electrical substations are required by federal law to have security fencing that does include height standards and can include barbwire.



## **Is there chemical contamination associated with recycling and decommissioning of solar panels?**

The vast majority of solar panels, including the crystalline silicon (C-Si) panels proposed for Paddlefish Solar, are classified as non-toxic waste. Solar panels undergo a “Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure” test mandated by the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act to determine their non-toxicity.

For more information about end-of-life practices for solar panels, see the Environmental Protection Agency’s article: <https://www.epa.gov/hw/end-life-solar-panels-regulations-and-management>

EDF Renewables has signed an agreement with SOLARCYCLE, a technology-based solar recycling company, to recycle solar panels damaged or broken during construction and operation from our solar sites. SOLARCYCLE’s proprietary technology allows for extraction of 95% of the value from recycled panels including silver, silicon, copper, aluminum, and glass.

Further, there are no anticipated emissions to the ground, air, or water as a result of the operation of solar panels. As no soil contamination is anticipated, the land can be safely utilized for farming after site decommissioning.

## **Are solar panels toxic?**

The crystalline silicon (C-Si) solar panels that are proposed for Paddlefish Solar have been in development for over 60 years and are safe and non-toxic. These C-Si modules are comprised of silicon, copper, and aluminum, sandwiched between glass and a plastic encapsulant with an aluminum frame (77% glass, 10% aluminum, 3% silicon and 9% polymers, with less than 1% copper, silver and tin, and less than 0.1% lead).

C-Si solar panels make up 84% of solar panels used in the U.S., and are used in all types of solar installations, including on residential rooftops, schools, and ground-mounted projects like this one. Silicon is safe for the environment and is one of the most abundant resources on earth.

Solar panels contain a small amount of lead. The estimated amount of lead in a single PV panel that uses lead-based solder in wiring varies between 1.6 and 24 grams. The most cited value in literature is 13 grams, which is less than half an ounce. This means that at 13 grams per panel, each PV panel contains *half* the amount of lead found in a standard 12-gauge shotgun shell. Note that on a unit of mass per unit of energy produced basis (kg/GWh), coal ash contains 9 times more lead than silicon PV, and unlike coal ash, 95% of each solar panel can be recycled. Learn more here: <https://www.dnv.com/publications/contextualizing-pv-end-of-life-waste-248306/>.

There are no liquids inside a solar panel so there is nothing to “leak” out of a panel even if the

panel is damaged.

### **How will this project affect soil moisture?**

When rainwater hits the solar panels, it will fall on the ground. The vegetation beneath the solar panels will slow the flow of water, compared to having row cropping, allowing the water to infiltrate. The solar site behaves like a meadow. The solar panels shade the ground (keep in mind that the panels rotate to follow the sun, so the ground is not constantly shaded), decreasing evaporation and maintaining higher soil moisture.

For solar projects, the discharge rate of stormwater from a solar facility is less than it was for a row crop site because a higher percent of the land is covered in vegetation and does not have bare soil like agricultural fields do. That means there is more water being retained on site to recharge local aquifers.

### **What about erosion control?**

To avoid disrupting previous water runoff patterns, a hydrology study will be conducted to understand how grading at the project site may impact surface water runoff under normal and extreme conditions. By identifying hydrological conditions and potential drainage issues, mitigation measures, including grading and drainage routing, will be factored into design, and detailed in the final drainage and grading plan for the project. Indiana has strict rules around Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP), found here:

<https://www.in.gov/idem/stormwater/industrial-storm-water-permitting/storm-water-pollution-prevention-plan-swp3-development/>

The grass cover typically planted and maintained under and between each row of panels represents a net reduction in chemical fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides that are often primary sources of groundwater contamination.

### **Will the project affect drain tiles in my fields?**

Like crops, a properly operating solar project requires a well-drained surface. EDF Renewables has successfully built several solar projects on land containing robust drain tile systems and is experienced in preventing drainage issues for both project landowners and their neighbors.

Paddlefish Solar will work to avoid negative impacts to drainage tile systems within the project area by conducting a thorough survey of existing data on the drain tile system in the area, proactively repairing and upgrading drain tile prior to construction if necessary, implementing construction best practices around drain tile that have already been successful elsewhere, and guaranteeing the integrity of the system through decommissioning.

### **Will the project affect my soil and crop productivity in the future?**

Solar projects are low-impact land uses that can safely operate next to neighboring agricultural

operations. There are spaces between rows of panels large enough for maintenance equipment to travel. This means sunlight and rain reach the ground.

The natural ground cover under and between the rows of panels allows the soil to rest and rebuild nutrients—just as agriculture conservation programs recommend—making the land more profitable upon return to agricultural use in the future. Planting of native grasses and pollinator friendly groundcover creates new habitats for bees, birds, small mammals, and other wildlife.

The rows of solar panels will only cover approximately 42% of the land within the fenced area and will be planted with various types of grasses, with the option for additional types of vegetation that may be requested through the permitting process.

### **Has the project considered natural resources?**

A solar project is a low-impact development in that it is a temporary use of the land. This isn't a sprawling residential development or shopping mall that cannot easily be removed at the end of its useful life.

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All large-scale solar farms apply for federal permits for water quality, erosion, and sedimentation control. This permit requires low impact construction and grading to be used, and photovoltaic panels within an array must be arranged to minimize runoff and allow vegetation growth beneath and between panels. Beyond these environmental permits, solar developers consult with other state and federal agencies such as the State Historic Preservation Office and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service when developing projects. These approvals are in addition to county and municipal approvals for zoning, development, and similar issues.

Learn more about solar permitting here:

<https://www.seia.org/sites/default/files/Solar%20Energy%20%26%20Agriculture%20Factsheet.pdf>

### **There are streams and rivers in the area. How does the project account for those?**

Paddlefish Solar will complete environmental surveys to document the locations of all streams, rivers, and wetlands. The project has established 100' setbacks from streams.

These locations will be provided to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and these streams will be protected during

construction by the project's storm water pollution prevention plan as required by state law.

An overview of Indiana's wetland regulations can be found here:

<https://www.in.gov/idem/wetlands/information-about/state-regulated-wetlands-program/overview-of-idem-state-regulated-wetland-permit-types/>

### **How are you sure there are no American Indian reservations or artifacts that will be disturbed?**

This project is located entirely on privately owned land as confirmed through title searches and professional surveys. There are no American Indian reservations in the project area.

The project has contracted with an archeological investigator to study the project area and a one-mile buffer of the project. The Indiana State Historic and Architectural and Archaeological Research Database was reviewed. State and federal rules require us to do a survey of historical and cultural resources and limit our ability to construct in areas where resources of significance are identified. We will just adjust our design accordingly if anything of significance is found by the archaeological investigator.

### **How do you make sure the project does not disturb bald eagles?**

Bald eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which prohibits anyone from disturbing eagles without a permit. Surveys will be completed ahead of construction to be sure the project is not disturbing bald eagles and will comply with all requirements under this Act.

For more information about the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, see:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2010-title16/pdf/USCODE-2010-title16-chap5A-subchap11.pdf>

### **What happens if construction equipment damages roads?**

The project will have a Road Use Agreement with Wells and Huntington Counties that includes legal agreements to fund any necessary repairs. Paddlefish Solar agrees to use the roads in a reasonable and prudent manner, sharing the roads with other public traffic in a normal manner. The Project will provide a video survey of the roads proposed to be bonded and public drains located in the right of way prior to the initiation of project construction. This video will be prepared by an independent, third-party engineer licensed in Indiana. In order to protect the interests of the commissioners and the county residents, the project is required to provide a surety bond or an escrow payment credited to the County Highway Departments. Paddlefish Solar has agreed to make reasonable repairs as needed, to the extent damage has been caused by its use of the roads, as determined by the independent engineer hired by the counties.

### **Will the project produce noise?**

While construction activities will temporarily contribute noise to the area, efforts will be undertaken to limit the noise to times of the day between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Noise generated in the construction of a solar facility is similar to the noise that would be observed from on-site farming activities. Solar panels, themselves, are completely silent. Certain pieces of equipment of a utility-scale solar project, including inverters, transformers, and motors, do emit a small amount of sound, but only during daylight hours. The equipment that does emit noise, the inverters, are strategically placed within the solar layout at a distance from the project's boundary. Transportation and maintenance equipment—including cars, trucks, and lawnmowers—are also a common source of low-emitting noise within utility-scale solar projects that community members are used to hearing elsewhere.

Unlike other developments, such as manufacturing facilities, the solar project will not create noise, smells, traffic, or other impacts on adjacent land or to residents following construction. Solar is a good, quiet neighbor; it stays on its side of the fence and doesn't throw parties.

For more insight into living near a solar project, see:

[https://cleanpower.org/wp-content/uploads/gateway/2021/12/Final\\_Solar-as-a-Neighbor-Fact-Sheet.pdf](https://cleanpower.org/wp-content/uploads/gateway/2021/12/Final_Solar-as-a-Neighbor-Fact-Sheet.pdf)

### **Where is the labor force coming from to build this?**

During the development process, people are employed conducting site surveys, permitting, community engagement, land acquisition, and many more activities.

Construction is anticipated to take about two years, and at its peak, will require more than 350 workers. A significant component of the labor force will be expected from local unions in Indiana. Part of our operations team is expected to be staffed locally, if candidates for the position are available.

### **In the event there is a fire, is the fire department going to be able to get in these fenced areas immediately?**

All our facilities will include Knox boxes and local first responders will have keys to enter the facility. Depending on the agreement with first responders, and their comfort with the facility, they will either wait for operations personnel to arrive before entering the facility, or notify EDF Renewables and enter the facility prior to the arrival of operations personnel.

A local crew of three or more people will operate and maintain the facility; therefore, there would be staff living near the project. Placards around the facility will provide a number to call the EDFR operations and control center, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, and speak to a live person.

### **How does a first responder turn the power off to protect themselves?**

The site management team will be responsible for shutting down the power. This will be done through our 24/7 operations and control center or local operations staff.

### **Can solar panels catch fire?**

Solar panels rarely catch fire and are not combustible. In the unlikely event of a fire within a solar panel, it would smolder and would not be likely to spread.

During the permitting process and before construction starts, the project team will meet with local EMS officials to confirm the appropriate training and response protocols to be followed. A Safety Response Plan and Site Security Plan will be prepared as part of the permitting process and reviewed with local EMS officials before construction starts.

### **What will happen to neighboring property values?**

The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) has examined property values across the U.S. 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 resulting from community benefits.

Furthermore, the proximity to solar farms does not deter the sale 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 and trees, lessen the visual impact of the project from neighboring homes and roads.

Read the full SEIA fact sheet:

<https://www.seia.org/sites/default/files/Solar%20Energy%20%26%20Agriculture%20Factsheet.pdf>

### **What is the anticipated project timeline?**

Paddlefish Solar Project is completing a thorough permitting process that takes a minimum of two years to complete with multiple opportunities for input from all stakeholders.

The operation phase is intended to last 30-40 years, after which time the project would be decommissioned and the land returned to its previous use, including farming.

### **How many jobs would be created?**

More than 350 local jobs will be created during construction (expected to last 1.5-2 years), as well as three full-time positions during operation, fostering significant long-term job growth along with other projects across the state within the renewable energy sector.

The types of businesses that benefit from labor, services, and material supply of a solar project before, during, and after construction include environmental consulting, project and

construction management, surveying, geotechnical, construction services, equipment rental, landscaping, maintenance, and hospitality.

### **How can Wells and Huntington County residents win for hosting this project?**

Many Wells and Huntington County residents and landowners feel this is a winning opportunity. EDF Renewables is committed to integrating a responsibly sited solar project that will create more than 350 local construction jobs, integrate agricultural activities within the project area, and contribute significant new investments to the community that will stabilize and/or lower tax rates for all citizens. The project will also provide a stable income for landowners that can be reinvested in the community.

### **What benefits will Paddlefish Solar provide when the project is built?**

Paddlefish Solar will provide benefits to both the local community and local businesses during construction and operation. The types of businesses that benefit from labor, services, and material supply of a solar project before, during, and after construction include environmental consulting, project and construction management, surveying, geotechnical, construction services, equipment rental, landscaping, maintenance, and hospitality.

### **How does EDF Renewables plan to engage the local community to communicate the project and obtain feedback?**

A thorough community engagement process began more than two years ago. The Paddlefish project team was engaged in numerous calls and meetings with Wells and Huntington County officials and the public to discuss the project and address any questions or interests brought forward.

Members of the public can share feedback with the project team or ask questions at any time by calling (260) 355-5951 or by emailing [info@paddlefishsolar.com](mailto:info@paddlefishsolar.com).

### **I heard about visual buffering. What does that mean?**

Ground-mounted solar panels for this project have a visual profile like a large greenhouse operation. Keep in mind that the panels rotate through the day to track the sun, so they will look different based on the angle. Viewed from 250' or 450' away (the setback from residences and roads will vary), the solar panels have only a minor viewshed impact. This impact will be further reduced in areas where there is existing vegetation, as well as adjacent to homes and along certain roadways, where the project is required to install visual buffers in the form of trees and shrubs.

Paddlefish Solar has prepared a Landscape Mitigation Planting Plan that will govern the establishment of permanent vegetation around the perimeter of the project. The density and height of the trees and shrubs will depend on the location of residences. For example, the trees

and shrubs will be planted where the panels would otherwise be most visible from a residence. These plans are developed with the goal of minimizing and mitigating the project's visual effects so the project will blend in with the surrounding landscape.

**With technology changing so rapidly, won't these panels and batteries become obsolete, meaning replacement and higher electric costs for all? Or, will the local utility look to other sources or methods of power generation that are much cheaper?**

Once the solar panels are installed, they are intended to produce electricity for 30-40 years. Much of the world is turning to renewable energy, including solar energy, and there are benefits created by replacing fossil fuel generation with renewable energy. For example, pollution reduction resulting from using solar energy instead of fossil-fuel generated energy has been shown to have positive "health-related air quality benefits to the southeast region from solar PV generators to be worth 8.0 cents per kilowatt-hour of solar generation," according to research conducted by U.S. Department of Energy affiliates Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Read more about the 'Environmental and Public Health Benefits of Achieving High Penetrations of Solar Energy in the United States' at <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy16osti/65628.pdf>.

Every project is different and there are undeniable benefits for landowners, communities, and the environment. If you want to learn more about how you can participate in the Paddlefish Solar Project, let's connect.

## Let's talk energy

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