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What is solar energy?

Solar energy is created from a solar panel comprised of solar cell units that absorbs energy from the sun and converts it into electricity through a process called the photovoltaic effect. By harnessing the power of the sun, solar farms produce clean, emission-less and renewable energy.

What are the Community Benefits for the project?

- Local job creation: Solar energy is one of the fastest growing industries in the country and is creating thousands of jobs. Every solar project creates permanent operations and maintenance staff jobs and helps create construction jobs.
- Increased long-term investment: Solar projects support direct local economic development through landowner lease payments and taxes they pay during operations. This is often tens of millions of dollars over the life a project.
- Supporting the local economy and developing skilled workers: The skills learned and developed by construction workers are highly valued and transferrable. And solar operations and maintenance jobs are growing quickly.

What is the impact on land values for neighboring properties?

There is no evidence to support any impact on property values from solar developments. There have been several independent, third-party studies conducted to evaluate property sales near solar farms and there was no demonstrable impact on property values. In fact, the increased revenue stream for participating land can add value and increase property values.

Is solar energy safe for the environment and people's health?

Yes, electricity generated from photovoltaic (PV) solar panels is safe, good for the environment and has a positive impact on people's health. When compared to traditional energy generation, solar energy's emission-less electricity improves air quality and reduces the health impacts of energy generation.

What will happen when a solar project stops operating?

The owner of the facility will be responsible for removing the facility at the end of its useful life, as required by the conditions put forth by the Ohio Power Siting Board. This decommissioning process is commonly secured and protected via bonds or other financial security obligations for the project.

In the unlikely event the project or the company becomes insolvent, one of the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) Conditions will require a financial security be put in place

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prior to construction to assure sufficient funds are available through the project's lifetime to remove the facility.

What happens when a solar project is decommissioned?

Solar facilities are usually obligated through agreements with landowners to remove all project components from the property under easement after agreements terminate. When a solar project is decommissioned all components are removed in accordance with local requirements and the land where the project was located is restored back to preconstruction conditions.

What happens to solar panels at the end of a project's life?

By weight, more than 80 percent of the material in solar panels is glass and aluminum – both common and easy-to-recycle materials. Right now there is not a huge demand to recycle panels as they are still being deployed and operating the way they are designed to. It does not make business sense to maintain recycling capabilities with no demand. But recycling options are expected to grow over time.

For example, the wind energy industry is more mature than solar energy, and [Global Fiberglass Solutions](#) is providing large scale recycling options to give wind turbine blade material a circular lifecycle.

Can land utilized for solar project be used as farmland again after their useful life?

Yes, the decommissioning process ensures that the land will be returned to its prior state and landowners can decide how they want to use the land when that occurs. So, if, in the future, it is no longer used for solar power generation, it could be utilized for agriculture again.

Will construction affect traffic?

Truck traffic will increase during construction of a project, but solar facilities do not typically require oversized loads and vehicles will generally weigh less than normal loads, like grain trucks, for the project area.

Do solar facilities create noise?

Solar projects are very quiet. Some electric components, such as inverters, make a quiet hum sound like a window air conditioning unit. The inverters will typically be placed one hundred feet or more inside the project and should not be audible at the fence.

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What does security look like for a solar project?

Solar projects are surrounded by a fence that meets National Electric Code standards and a security camera may monitor the site from the main entrance.

What is the fire risk at a solar facility?

Like any other utility scale electricity generation, solar facilities have to comply with National Electric Code standards, local fire codes, and any other relevant safety standards. Solar panels do not pose any unique fire risk and are made almost entirely out of non-flammable materials.

Can solar construction activities damage drain tile?

While it is unlikely that construction of a solar facility will damage any non-participating landowner drain tiles, any tile damage-for participating and non-participating landowners that may occur during construction will be required to be repaired and replaced by the project owner or developer.

What happens if a solar company goes out of business?

Power generating facilities are very valuable and in the unlikely event that a project owner goes bankrupt, the facility would likely be purchased by a utility or power generating company.

Do solar facilities increase the temperature around the solar project?

No. Although solar panels warm up to the touch like any surface in direct sunlight, they return to ambient temperature at night. Panel spacing and the vegetation below and around the panels helps maintain ambient temperatures.

Do solar panels create a glare? Can a glare affect passing drivers or nearby homes?

Solar panels are designed to absorb the sun's rays, not reflect them, and the panels are coated with an anti-glare surface. Solar panels are regularly placed next to airports with no problems.

Can solar panels withstand the elements?

Most solar panels are certified to withstand at least 139.9 mile per hour winds, the equivalent to a category 4 hurricane or an EF 3 tornado. Solar farms are built in hurricane prone areas like Florida and in the Carolinas, and solar farms in those areas have withstood recent severe weather events.

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In the event of a tornado, or severe weather event, who would clean up any potential damage to a solar facility?

The owner of any solar facility has a financial interest in keeping the facility operating and property and would be responsible to clean up any damage.