

Procurement and Pollinator-Friendly Solar



Fresh Energy



MONARCH
JOINT VENTURE



GREAT PLAINS
INSTITUTE



The Bee & Butterfly
Habitat Fund
A Unique Conservation Solution.



NATIONAL CENTER
FOR APPROPRIATE
TECHNOLOGY



Thank you.

Considering the land under and around energy development is a step overlooked by many. However, it is rapidly emerging as both an opportunity and best practice for deployment of solutions that help us address the climate and biodiversity crises concurrently.

Demand for solar energy continues to accelerate. Signed power purchase agreements exceeding 70 gigawatts will result in more than 500,000 acres of new PV solar by the end of 2024, with millions more acres to follow. A warming world will increasingly need resilient and high-performance clean energy solutions where ecological systems can benefit the technological systems.

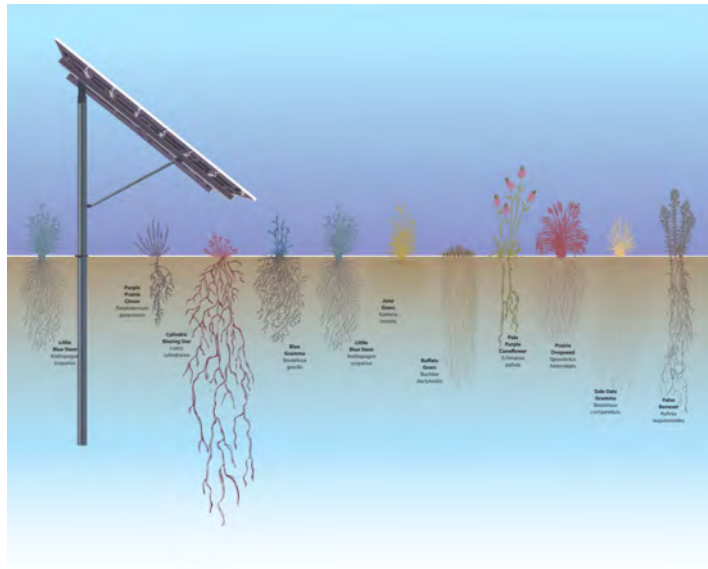
Solutions will not emerge and improve unless we ask for them.

By considering how to leverage your buying power, you've taken an important step to prove that the market is strong and innovative enough to produce a win-win-win for clean energy, the environment, and agriculture.

For our prosperous future,

Rob Davis

Rob Davis
Director, Center for Pollinators in Energy
Fresh Energy
davis@fresh-energy.org
🐦 @robargo



Deep-rooted perennial vegetation sequesters carbon and is resilient to droughts and downpours.



PV Plus: Amplify the Sustainability and Biodiversity Benefits of Solar

An effective way to provision pollinator-friendly solar is through a company's standard procurement process. No matter whether the business seeks a power purchase agreement or to be the long-term owner of a given project, vendors will meet and exceed expectations when language regarding establishment and management of ground cover is included in the RFP, PPA, or other agreements.

Additionally, by asking for PV solar projects that provide co-benefits in addition to carbon-free electricity, corporations and electric utilities can generate goodwill among agricultural, conservation, and environmental stakeholders even before projects are selected. This reduces time, risk, and total project costs for all parties.



Xcel Energy, Connexus Energy, SMMPA, & City of Minneapolis recognized for pollinator friendly Solar procurement commitments at Pheasant Fest, nation's largest gathering of pheasant hunters and conservationists.

[SECTION] Environmental Approvals, Permitting, and Compliance

The Company will evaluate the extent to which the proposal includes the required environmental approvals and permits for construction of the RFP Project and whether the appropriate timelines have been included in the project schedule. The Company is committed to supporting pollinator friendly habitat at our solar facilities. We require Proposers to provide a [pollinator habitat scorecard assessment form](#) with their proposed bid package.

The Company also encourages Proposers to disclose any professionals on the development team with ENVISION SP certification by the [Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure](#).

[IF INCLUDING SCORING CRITERIA] Solar Pollinator Assessment Scoring

Pollinator habitat assessment: The Company will provide a score to each proposal based on the proposal's pollinator habitat scorecard assessment form, noting the Proposer's plan and commitment to supporting pollinator-friendly habitat at our solar facilities. The score will constitute 10% of the overall evaluated value of each proposal.

Reviewed by RMI (Rocky Mountain Institute)



Power Purchase Agreement Language for Pollinator and Agriculturally Friendly Solar

Section X. Agricultural and Pollinator Friendly Landscaping.

X.1 [Purchaser] is committed to supporting enhanced perennial vegetation that facilitates increased [ecological services](#) and environmental benefits for the site and host community including healthy habitats for pollinators and agricultural use. The following requirements are applicable to a Facility if such Facility is (a) located on arable land and (b) is a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) resource that impacts at least 5 acres in total site size.

- i. Seller shall provide a written narrative that describes the vegetation design and management plan for the site, including: landscape drawings; complete seed/plant listings; site preparation and establishment plan; and, a completed Pollinator-Friendly Solar Scorecard demonstrating the site achieves a score of “meets standard” or above (see example, [**Appendix Z**] and [list of state scorecards](#)). Seller shall use reasonable efforts to provide such narrative to [**Purchaser**] no later than the construction commencement date.
- ii. Seller shall provide [**Purchaser**] with an updated Pollinator Scorecard within sixty (60) days after each two (2) Contract Year period during the Delivery Term. Seller shall use commercially reasonable efforts to achieve and maintain a score of at “meets standard” on the Pollinator Scorecard.
- iii. Seller shall install signage at the project boundaries to inform the public and service providers about the environmentally beneficial vegetation and maintenance considerations.
- iv. Seller shall restore all site development areas, which include but are not limited to temporary parking, temporary roadways and temporary storage locations, that may have been disturbed during construction with the enhanced perennial vegetation.

X.2 Seller is strongly encouraged to consider, but is not required to implement, the following solar array design elements to provide increased ecological services and reductions in maintenance costs:

- i. 30-inch minimum height above ground of the lowest edge of the solar panels.
- ii. Burying conduits and wiring with homeruns tight to bottom of panels.
- iii. Vegetation management that includes rotational grazing of sheep, following best practice guidance of American Solar Grazing Association.
- iv. Designing inter-row access/spacing to enable vegetation management.
- v. Utilizing [Drift Watch](#) or similar registration to prevent site from inadvertently being sprayed.
- vi. Conservation of functioning habitat on or adjacent to the site.
- vii. Use of deer-style woven wire fencing instead of chain-link fences.

Additional pollinator reference materials can be found at fresh-energy.org/bee-sloves-solar, including best practices and resources.

