



Solar Energy

A Clean Solution for Today's Energy Needs



The Columbia Solar Energy Center is a proposed 350MW solar facility that will be sited on approximately 2500 acres of private land in the Towns of Columbia and Litchfield, Herkimer County, New York.

The project will generate enough electricity to power 80,000 homes, provide tax and job benefits to the region, and contribute to New York State's renewable energy targets.

Construction could start as early as 2023 (at the conclusion of permitting) and be operational 18 months thereafter. Once the project is online, it is estimated that it will contribute five hundred thousand dollars in new revenues for the Town of Columbia and Litchfield, Herkimer County and associated schools districts every year.

More than 300 jobs will be created during construction (expected to last one to two years) as well as four 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, typically in the form of a letter of credit, to cover the cost to decommission the facility. This security is required by New York State and is posted before operations begin. 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.

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.

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Recycling and Disposal

The disposal of solar panels in New York 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.

The Solar Panel Collection Act- Senate Bill S942, is currently being drafted and reviewed by the New York Senate Environmental Conservation Committee. This legislation will require solar panel manufacturers to collect their solar panels once they are taken out of use and impose restrictions on how the panels can be disposed.

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.

About EDF Renewables

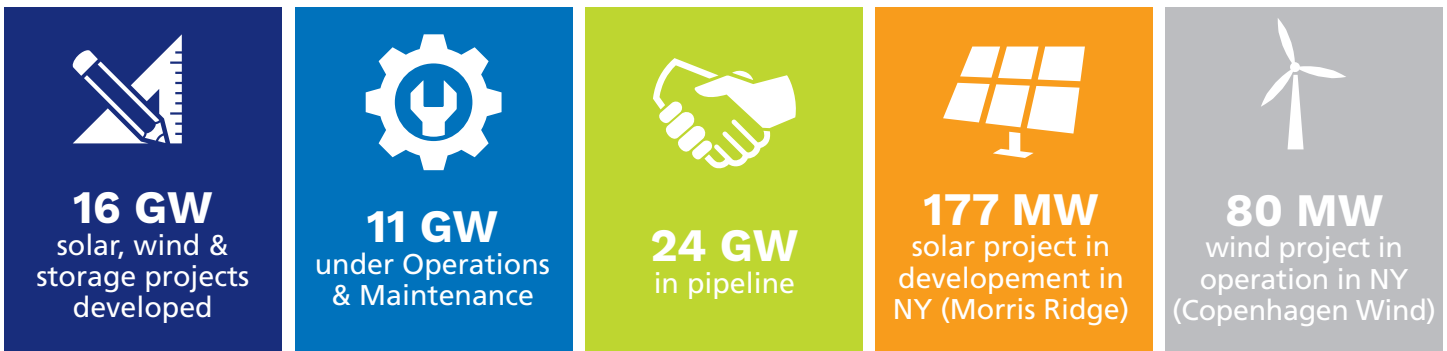
EDF Renewables is a market leading independent power producer and service provider with more than 30 years of experience leading the way to a clean energy future with large-scale projects that put the economy, communities and the environment first.


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 30 years.

In New York, the company built, owns and operates the 80-megawatt (the equivalent of 800 thousand 100 watt light bulbs) Copenhagen Wind Farm in Lewis County and is currently developing the 177 megawatt (the equivalent of 1.77 million 100 watt light bulbs) Morris Ridge Solar Energy Center in Livingston County, anticipated to be operational by 2023.

For more information or to share your feedback, please contact the EDF Renewables team by email at newyorksolar@edf-re.com or by phone at (833) 333-7369.

We Know Energy!



Let's talk energy. 

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