



EFFORT SOLAR

Frequently Asked Questions

1. IS THERE A FIRE RISK ASSOCIATED WITH UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR POWER GENERATION FACILITIES?

A. There is a very low risk of fire at large-scale solar facilities. The equipment at Effort Solar will be electronically monitored 24/7, and physically monitored throughout a standard work week. It is the Project's number one priority to ensure the safe operation of the Project facility and the safety of nearby residents and landowners. As Effort Solar is being developed, the Project team will work with local fire departments regarding all necessary procedures for the safe handling of fires within the facility. While this is prudent planning, fires within the Project are highly unlikely to occur.

2. ARE PROPERTY VALUES IMPACTED BY THIS FACILITY?

A. Industry studies show that large-scale solar power facilities economically benefit the community and do not decrease residential property resale values. The increase in state revenues generated by the facility typically lead to more funding for local services like schools, roads and emergency services. Additionally, homeowners may view the solar facility as a safe, quiet neighbor.

3. WHERE WILL THE POWER GENERATED FROM THE PROJECT GO?

A. The power from Effort Solar will be delivered into the local Pennsylvania electric grid, helping to diversify the state's energy portfolio. Power generated by the Project will be used both locally and transmitted to where it is needed based on demand.

4. ARE SOLAR PANELS SAFE?

A. Yes. Effort Solar will utilize monocrystalline silicon photovoltaic (PV) solar panels, which account for over 90% of solar PV panels installed today. These panels use a crystalline lattice of silicon atoms to convert sunlight into electricity. Silicon is the second-most abundant material on Earth (after oxygen) and the most common semiconductor material used in computer chips. It is nontoxic and does not pose a risk to public health or safety. When a project is decommissioned, panels can be recycled.

5. WHAT HAPPENS TO SOLAR PANELS AT THE END OF THEIR LIFE?

A. As part of the permitting process, Effort Solar will provide a detailed decommissioning plan and a commitment to implement the same. At the end of the Project's useful life (35-40 years on average), panels can be removed and recycled. Up to 90% of the materials used in panels, much of which is glass and aluminum, are recyclable.

6. ONCE SOLAR PANELS ARE REMOVED, CAN THE LAND BE USED FOR AGRICULTURE?

A. Yes. The Effort Solar project will be located on private land under long term lease arrangements and at the end of life of the project, the project will be decommissioned and the land will be available again for agriculture. This is in stark contrast to other developments, such as commercial or industrial building projects, which often leave land unusable for agriculture again. After panels are installed, native vegetation - often friendly to bees and other pollinators - will be planted. The deep roots of native vegetation retain more water than turf grass during heavy storms and periods of drought. They also help retain topsoil and improve soil health over time.

7. HOW IS WATER RUN-OFF AND DRAINAGE IMPACTED?

A. Effort Solar will include information in their application that addresses run-off both during construction and while the project is operating. In addition, the project will plant deep-rooted native vegetation beneath the solar panels and throughout the project footprint. Establishing native vegetation throughout the array will allow the ground to rest and build nutrient-rich soil. The well-rested, nutrient-filled soil will also help with erosion control and water run-off impacts in, near, and around the solar site.

8. WHAT IS THE TRACK RECORD OF SOLAR FARMS LEACHING CHEMICALS INTO THE GROUND?

A. PV solar panels are designed and built with solid, non-toxic materials confined between glass and a metal frame. When operated as intended, or in the rare instance when they fail or are damaged, they do not leach chemicals into the ground.