

Wood County Solar Project

November 2021 • Newsletter

BY THE NUMBERS

1,200 project footprint acres

74,123 number of piles planned for the site

345,147 ... number of solar panels planned for the site

531,300 ... feet of cable anticipated for the project

43,261 feet of fencing anticipated for the project

Visit alliantenergy.com/woodcountysolar for more details and updates.

Wood County Solar In The News

- Scientist says Saratoga solar project is safe for residents, environment - WI Rapids Daily Tribune:
<https://www.wisconsinrapidstribune.com/story/news/2021/08/05/wood-county-solar-project-safe-residents-environment-scientist-says/5468064001/>
- Construction of a Solar Power Project - Building Wisconsin construction video:
<https://www.buildingwisconsintv.com/home-page/-construction-of-a-solar-power-project/>

Inside:
Updates from the
project site.

CONSTRUCTION: What's Happening

The onsite civil work, such as creating access roads, retaining ponds, and site grading, is nearly complete. With much of the project site already prepared, construction work continues. Pilings, the metal columns which anchor the solar array structures to the ground, are currently being installed. As pilings are placed, crews have begun installing the racking systems which will support the solar panels.

Promoting native plant growth and pollinator habitat continues to be an important focus. Seeding is underway and vegetation growth throughout the project site is making good progress.

Construction of deer fencing around the project site is also underway. In addition to its functionality, this fencing will provide a natural esthetic look.

Project work on the utility substations has also begun. Once completed, these substations will connect the solar arrays to the main electric grid and ensure that the clean energy generated by these panels is ready and available for use at the flip of a switch.

The Wood County Solar Project is expected to be generating energy by the end of 2022.



Crews install the solar racking system



Mowing throughout the project site helps establish root development and promote vegetative growth



Fence installation on the west project boundary

CREATING A POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY HABITAT

Supporting a diverse, pollinator-friendly habitat that builds soil nutrients and strengthens local wildlife is a key goal of our Clean Energy Blueprint. At this site, like others around the state, we are planting native grass and seed mixes throughout and around the solar arrays to create a healthy environment.

The Wood County Solar Project site is utilizing a specially selected mix of grass and seed varieties to promote a safe and healthy environment. The low-growth grass mix reduces the need for frequent mowings and maintenance. In addition to native prairie grass varieties, our pollinator-focused seed mix is great for attracting pollinators such as bees, butterflies, moths and other beneficial wildlife populations.



Alliant Energy pollinator field at the North Liberty Substation

Grass and Seed Varieties

LOW GROWTH GRASS MIX

Slender Wheatgrass
Sideoats Grama
Perennial Ryegrass
Little Bluestem

NATIVE POLLINATOR SEED MIX

Anise Hyssop
Lead Plant
Columbine
Butterfly Milkweed
Smooth Blue Aster
Partridge Pea
Prairie Clover
Wild Lupine
Black-Eyed Susan
Ohio Spiderwort
Hoary Vervain

Pollinator-friendly vegetation has been proven to prevent soil erosion, improve water quality, and decrease operating and maintenance costs. Additionally, a recent study by Yale University found that pollinator-friendly habitats can result in “higher energy output, from panel efficiency gains attributed to the cooler microclimate created by perennial plantings.” All of these benefits help to create a more sustainable, reliable and environmentally-friendly energy future.

To learn more about Alliant Energy’s efforts to support pollinators, visit AlliantEnergy.com; Keyword search: “Pollinator” for more information.

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Wood County Solar Project

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PROJECT UPDATES

Learn More

Alliant Energy is leading the transition to a clean energy future.

Learn more at:

alliantenergy.com/poweringwhatsnext

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