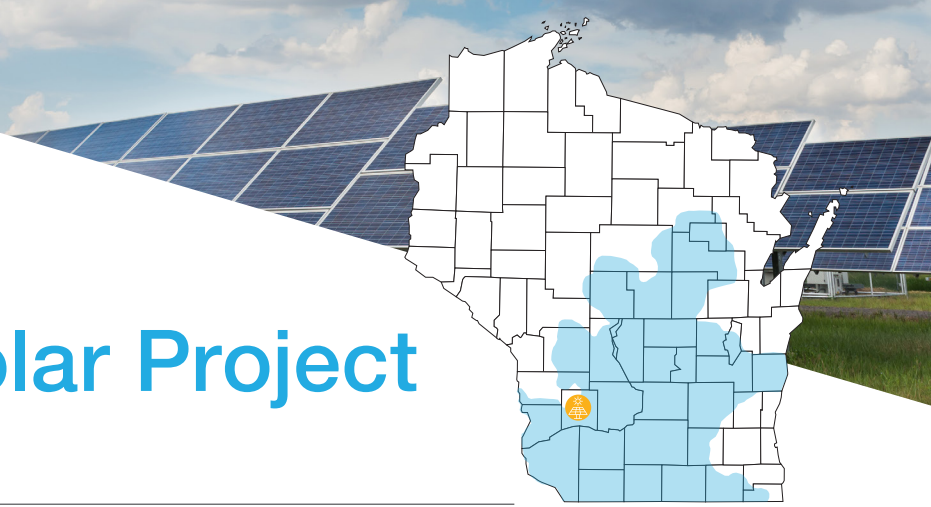


Bear Creek Solar Project

November 2021 Update



The 50-megawatt (MW) Bear Creek Solar Project located in Richland County, Wisconsin is part of Alliant Energy's Clean Energy Blueprint, a strategic roadmap to cost-effectively accelerate renewable energy while reducing carbon emissions. Once complete, the project will positively impact the environment and generate enough clean, low-cost energy to power approximately 13,000 Wisconsin homes.

CONSTRUCTION: What's Happening

Civil sitework has been completed and site engineering is over 75% complete. Electrical cable installation is roughly 40% complete and 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 fencing around the project site is also underway. In addition to its functionality, this fencing will provide a natural esthetic look.

Construction Update cont.

Project work on the utility substation has also begun. Once completed, the substation 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 Bear Creek Solar Project is expected to be generating energy by the end of 2022.



Pollinator field at the North Liberty Substation in Iowa

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 Bear Creek Solar Project site is utilizing a specially selected, DNR approved mix of grass and seed varieties to promote a safe and healthy environment. The low-growth grass mix, which reduces the need for frequent mowings and maintenance, includes Slender Wheatgrass, Sideoats Grama, Perennial Ryegrass and Little Bluestem. In addition to native prairie grass varieties, our pollinator-focused seed mix includes Lead Plant, Butterfly Milkweed, Smooth Blue Aster, Partridge Pea, Prairie Clover, Black-Eyed Susan and Ohio Spiderwort. These varieties of native vegetation are great for attracting pollinators such as bees, butterflies, moths and other beneficial wildlife populations.

Pollinator-friendly vegetation has been proven to prevent soil erosion, improve water quality, add benefit to high-value crops 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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Find Out What’s Next

Additional updates, photos and details for the Bear Creek Solar Project will be shared throughout the construction process and can be found online at: alliantenergy.com/bearcreeksolar

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