# Alliant Energy's Creston Solar Project February 2024 update

The 50-megawatt Creston Solar Project in Union County, Iowa, is part of Alliant Energy's Clean Energy Blueprint, a strategic roadmap to cost-effectively accelerate our transition to renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions. Once complete, the project will positively impact the environment and generate enough energy to power around 11,000 homes annually.

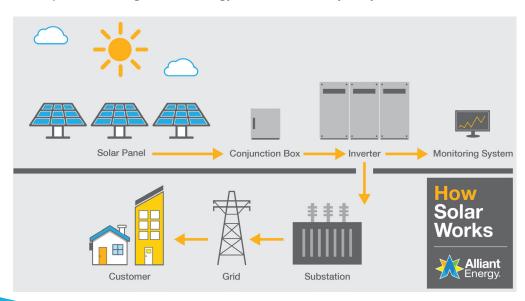
## **Construction update**

Most of the civil sitework has been completed at the Creston Solar Project. This includes setting up the laydown area, building roads and site grading to ensure the solar panels are at the proper angle to generate energy.

We've also begun installing an 8-foot deer fence to secure the site.

We've already begun planting native grasses and pollinator habitat. We plant low-growth grasses between the solar arrays; this reduces the need to mow and provides soil health and groundwater benefits. Pollinator habitat grows on the outskirts of the project area. We plant grasses early to allow them to take root and help stabilize the dirt.

We have started installing piles at the site. These metal posts anchor the solar arrays to the ground and support the tracking system that allows the panels to follow the sun daily from east to west. The graphic below shows the steps it takes to get clean energy from the sun's rays to your home.





## What to expect during construction

With construction underway, here's a preview of what you might see in the coming weeks and months.

We'll do much of the work with bulldozers, scrapers and graders the first few months, then use pile drivers to drive the 15-foot piles into the ground. Unlike poured concrete footings, these piles will be easy to remove at the end of the project's life. Most of the work after the piles will involve smaller machinery, including forklifts to transport deliveries of solar panels and skid steers for other minor work.

Full-time water trucks are on-site to mitigate dust blowing in the area. We are working with county engineers and have applied dust control measures to reduce construction traffic related dust.

Traffic will likely increase on the roads surrounding the solar project. We'll have around 100 workers on-site any given day and regular deliveries of project materials. We documented preconstruction road conditions and will repair any damage construction activities cause.

We'll construct the project substation in parallel with the solar arrays. We expect the Creston Solar Project to be operational by the end of 2024.

# The solar industry and veteran workforce

The demand for solar energy in the U.S. is growing at a record pace. Demand for workers in the solar industry is constantly growing as well.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, retired military veterans are ideal candidates for the solar industry.

- Veterans are trained to lead, given responsibility early in their service.
- Veterans are mission-focused. They do what it takes to complete the job correctly and on time.
- Veterans are team players. They support their colleagues to reach goals.

To learn more, go to alliantenergy.com and search "Veteran job match."

#### Find out what's next

We'll share additional updates, photos and details for the Creston Solar Project throughout the construction process online at alliantenergy.com/crestonsolar.

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