

WHAT WE HEARD

The Sunrise Solar Project



Thank you for your interest in our Sunrise Solar Project. Our Project Team recently hosted our first community Open House on March 28 to introduce the Project and gain valuable feedback. We were very pleased with the level of engagement and wanted to take this opportunity to summarize and share what we heard during the Open House, as well as our planned next steps.

Why did you choose this location?

- When selecting a potential solar project location, we consider many factors such as landowner interest, available land, proximity to transmission lines or substations with available capacity, and a favourable sunlight resource.
- We chose this location because the project will tap into an existing transmission line that runs along the northern edge of the site and has capacity for new electricity to be injected. This location does not require us to build new power lines.

How will the Project impact the views in the community?

- Solar arrays are typically 2 to 3 m high, depending on which model is chosen, and follow the contour of the land.
- We are preparing visual simulations to show the community how the Project will look on the landscape. These will be shared on our website and at the next open house.
- We are exploring mitigation measures for the potential visual impact at surrounding properties as a part of our detailed design and planning process. This may include further setbacks from the property line, planting hedges and/or trees, creating berms, or installing fencing.



Why is the Project located on agricultural land?

- Through consultation with local landowners and municipalities, we try to site solar farms on lands that are less desirable for agriculture; however, due to the location of existing power lines, this is not always possible.
- Standard 100.1 of Alberta Environment and Protected Areas Wildlife Directive for Alberta Solar Energy Projects Alberta states that solar energy projects should not be sited in areas of native grasslands and other areas important to wildlife or plant species of management concern.
- As our team finalizes Project design and prepares detailed construction plans, we will examine ways to limit topsoil disturbance and stripping while ensuring robust dust management and soil reclamation plans are in place.
- Once operational, we are planning to have sheep graze between the rows of solar panels. This initiative is increasingly common and showing benefits as natural weed control and continuing agricultural use of the land.
- Once the project reaches end of life, the solar racks, foundations and cables will be removed and as required by the *Conservation and Reclamation Directive for Renewable Energy Operations*, we will restore the site to its initial condition.



How will our community benefit from this Project?



We are committed to the environmental, social and economic well-being of the communities where we live and work. We engage proactively with communities during the planning and design of our projects, and once operational, we ensure that our company is giving back to the community.



Under our Charitable Giving Program, we work closely with local partners to make a positive impact through projects and organizations that are aligned with both the needs of the community and our business values.



The Project will also make direct property tax payments to the M.D. of Pincher Creek to support delivery of public services.



In addition, utility-scale solar projects, like the Sunrise Project, create local construction jobs and increase business for local services such as hotels and restaurants. We intend for our Project to create long-term jobs for operations and maintenance.

What will happen to the panels and the land after the Project?

At the end of the Project lifespan (typically around 25-30 years), there are two main options:

1

RE-POWER THE SITE

Install new panels and continue generating power

2

DECOMMISSION/ RECLAMATION

Remove the physical equipment and restore the site to its initial condition

- The Project has committed to establishing a Decommissioning Fund that will ensure funds are in place at the end of the Project's life to cover the cost of decommissioning.
- Solar power systems consist of recyclable materials, including copper (cabling), aluminum (racking), steel (posts), glass and electronic components.
- Solar panels are 90% recyclable by mass. Glass and metal have well established recycling processes, and there is very little mass remaining that requires special treatment. There are several recycling methods for the solar panels themselves, including disassembly and shredding.
- As more solar farms are built and come to the end of their lifespan, the scale and capabilities of solar recycling technologies are expected to increase.
- In addition, a Conservation and Reclamation Plan will be submitted with our application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) that follows the *Conservation and Reclamation Directive for Renewable Energy Operations*. The Plan will outline how to conserve soil resources during construction and how we will ensure the land is returned to the same condition it was before the Project.



How will the Project affect things like weeds, dust, noise and glare in the area?

- The land that supports the solar farm will be revegetated with a mixture of low-growing grasses that will prevent soil erosion and encourage soil nutrient cycling. We plan to use sheep for weed and vegetation control but may use mowing or spraying if required.
- Dust management will be an important part of the construction and operations plans. This may include imposed speed limits for construction crews along access roads, application of tackifiers to exposed soils, interim reclamation during construction, and watering. During operation, most of the site will be covered with grass, so dust generation would be minimal.
- A Solar Glare Assessment will be conducted in the coming months and shared on our website. This requires us to conduct an assessment for all residences and roads within 800m, and including the airport.
- For the Project, we will use photovoltaic solar (PV) panel technology. They are dark in color and treated with an anti-reflective coating. Solar panels are generally less reflective than windows, and have been safely used close to roads and airports.
- Project-related noise will occur primarily during the construction phase of Project development since solar panels do not generate noise. The inverter stations that change the current of electricity do produce a slight hum during operations.
- We are conducting a Noise Impact Analysis that will be shared publicly to ensure that any noise past the property boundaries is under the established thresholds. This assessment will be done for all residences within 1.5km of the Project.
- Once the Project is operational, there will be minimal activity on the site.

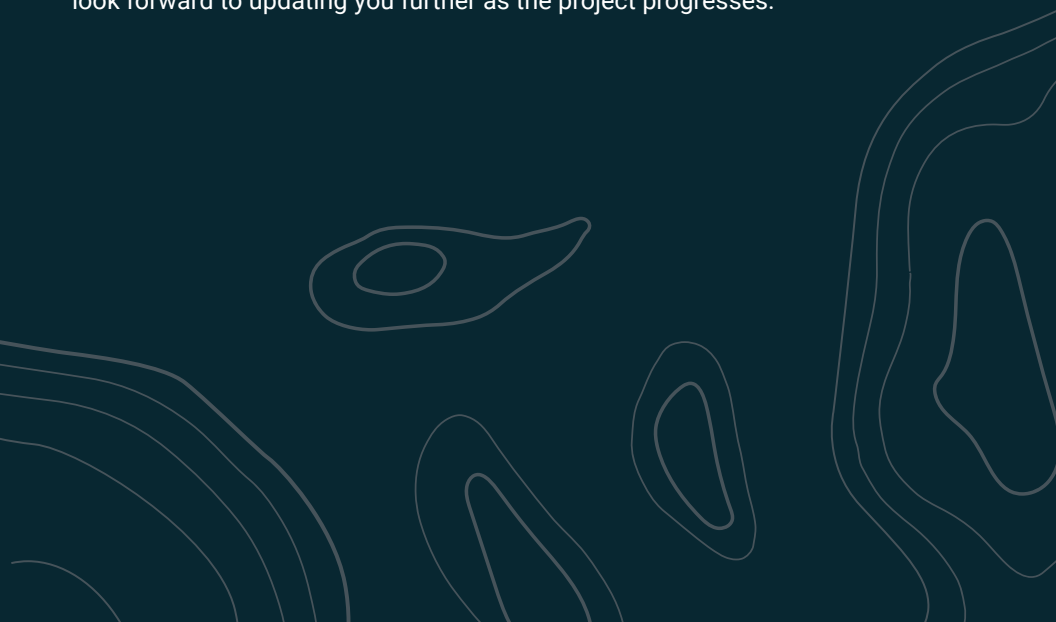
Have you accounted for the area's strong winds and weather?


- The Project's engineering and design will specifically consider Pincher Creek's wind conditions and will incorporate wind load design into the detailed engineering. For example, the underground piles and racking system will be reinforced and designed to withstand the strong winds in the area.
 - Solar panels are designed to withstand significant hail, with some models more robust than others. Our engineering and procurement team will factor in site specific weather data when selecting what solar panel to use for the Project.
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Next Steps

Our Project Team is actively considering project design changes and potential mitigations as a result of the feedback received to date. This may result in several changes to our design, operational plan, and timelines. We appreciate your feedback and encourage you to continue sharing your questions and thoughts with us at sunriseproject@evolugen.com or call **403-463-8391**.

Thank you for your continued interest in the **Sunrise Solar Project** and we look forward to updating you further as the project progresses.





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