



LANGDON MILLS SOLAR

Frequently Asked Questions

1. HOW WILL THE PROJECT IMPACT FARMLAND AND LOCAL AGRICULTURE?

A. Solar development and traditional agriculture can co-exist side-by-side, and increasingly are found together. Responsible solar development provides benefits to both agriculture and ecosystems by improving soil health, retaining water, nurturing native species, and supporting native pollinators which support local food production. In addition, solar farms help farmers and landowners diversify their income by providing a reliable, drought-resistant revenue stream. This steady income means that farmers are less vulnerable to fluctuations in market prices on their products, uncertain trade regimes, and volatile annual weather, thus helping farmers stay in business. Additionally, at the end of its useful life the project will be decommissioned, and the land will be available for all future potential uses, including traditional agriculture.

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

A. The power from Langdon Mills Solar will be delivered into the local Wisconsin 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.

3. WILL INCLEMENT WEATHER DAMAGE THE PANELS?

A. Panels are capable of withstanding harsh weather elements such as hail, torrential rain, and strong winds. Studies, as well as actual catastrophic events such as hurricanes, have shown that solar farms are able to withstand the harsh weather elements, including the cold, snowy weather of Wisconsin.

4. ARE SOLAR PANELS TOXIC?

A. No. Langdon Mills 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 as well as be disposed in landfills designated for this type of material.

5. 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.

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

A. Yes. The Langdon Mills 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 farming. 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. WHAT HAPPENS TO SOLAR PANELS AT THE END OF THEIR LIFE?

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

8. WHAT IS THE FIRE RISK OF A SOLAR PROJECT SUCH AS THIS?

- A. The risk of fire in a utility-scale solar project is incredibly low. The project contains sensors that are capable of detecting a fire that could be occurring in a specific section of the array. These sensors will immediately notify Operation and Maintenance team members, who then can power off the array. The solar energy facility and its equipment will be operated and monitored to ensure proper safety of the equipment. The Langdon Mills Solar Project will have a safety and security plan that details fire protection and related education for local first responders. The project will work with local fire and EMS departments to ensure their thorough understanding of the project's low fire risk and proper response actions.

9. WHAT WILL THIS DO TO THE WILDLIFE?

- A. Impacts to local wildlife are expected to be minimal. Project environmental experts have been assessing the project footprint by conducting site-specific studies to understand and mitigate potential impacts on wildlife. The project will comply with all state and federal regulations associated with wildlife including requirements of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Small local wildlife will be able to come and go through wildlife friendly fencing, including rabbits and other small mammals as well as turtles and other small reptiles.

10. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT IS CLOUDY OUTSIDE?

- A. Even on a cloudy day, solar panels produce between 10% and 25% of their typical output. Advanced tracking systems also enable solar panels to follow the sun throughout the day and maximize the amount of electricity generated.

11. ARE SOLAR PANELS NOISY?

- A. No, solar panels themselves are completely silent. Certain pieces of equipment on a solar farm, which include invertors, transformers, and motors, do emit a small amount of sound during the day from sunrise to sunset. Transportation and maintenance equipment – including cars, trucks, lawnmowers and string trimmers – are also a common source of noise on solar farms that most people are used to hearing elsewhere. The impact of this sound is negligible because the equipment is strategically placed within the solar layout and is typically distant from the property lines. A noise study will be conducted to ensure that the project operates within applicable noise limits.

12. WHAT IS THE REGULATORY PROCESS THAT LANGDON MILLS SOLAR MUST GO THROUGH TO RECEIVE APPROVAL TO BUILD THE PROJECT?

- A. Wisconsin has a very thorough, objective process run by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) to review applications for large solar photovoltaic projects. Simultaneously, the WDNR reviews the project to ensure that any necessary impacts to wildlife, water, and the environment are minimized, and that all required environmental permits are sought and issued. The permitting process is similar to a judicial hearing, where evidence is entered into a record, and three impartial commissioners at the PSCW review the application for compliance with all Wisconsin laws. The process typically takes about a year from start to finish. More information on the process – and how to get involved – can be found at the PSCW website, here: <https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ForConsumers/ConstructionAndEnvironmentalInformation.aspx>

13. WILL STRAY VOLTAGE BE A CONCERN FOR LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS NEAR THE PROJECT?

- A. No. Utility-scale solar projects will follow strict electrical safety codes governing the design, construction, and operation of any project in Wisconsin. With modern-day underground collection and transmission lines used in the construction of solar farms, stray voltage will not impact neighboring farms. On-site project staff will oversee the day-to-day operations of the solar farm to assure the site continues to follow all applicable codes and regulations. Additionally, Langdon Mills Solar will comply with any stray voltage testing ordered by the PSCW.



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HOW WILL THIS PROJECT BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY?

- A. Based on an anticipated size of 200 megawatts, local governments will receive direct payments of up to \$800,000 per year as required by state law. These payments add to the local government's available resources without adding expenses because infrastructure improvements required for construction or operations will be paid for by Langdon Mills Solar. Langdon Mills Solar will also voluntarily provide payments to the local school districts pursuant to a joint development agreement signed by the local units of government and Langdon Mills Solar.

Additionally, the Project will bring construction jobs and both direct and indirect permanent jobs to the local community. Solar is driving economic growth throughout the country, and Langdon Mills Solar will use local labor whenever possible to build and run the Project.

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

- A. Yes. The Langdon Mills Solar project will be located on private land under long term lease arrangements, and at the end of life of the Project, it will be decommissioned, and the land will be available again for farming by the landowner. 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.

HOW WILL THIS CHANGE THE LOOK OF THE LAND AND WHAT WILL THIS DO TO THE WILDLIFE?

- A. Solar panels have a linear layout that is similar to crop rows. Panels will be set back from non-participating properties and Langdon Mills Solar will provide visual barriers as required to the extent such barriers do not impact the operation of the Project and are economically feasible. The Project will also utilize natural visual barriers whenever possible to blend the site with the landscape.

Impacts to local wildlife are expected to be minimal. Project environmental experts have been assessing the Project footprint by conducting site-specific studies to understand and mitigate potential impacts on wildlife. The Project will comply with all state and federal regulations associated with wildlife including requirements of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the WDNR.

Office Hours: Wednesday 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Thursday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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