

1. What is the Greene County Solar Facility?

The proposed solar project is a 50-megawatt photovoltaic (PV) Facility to be built in Cossackie, New York. The Facility components will be sited on approximately 379 acres, and will include:

- PV solar modules that rotate with the sun
- Access roads
- Electrical interconnection to the utility grid
- Perimeter fence

The remaining 448 acres will remain available for either farming or conservation.

2. What is the current status of the Greene County Solar Facility?

The Facility application has been deemed compliant. Construction is planned to commence in the fourth quarter of 2021.

3. What economic benefits will the solar farm provide to the Town of Cossackie?

If approved by the Siting Board, the Greene County Solar Facility will provide annual contributions to the Town and county tax base. The Facility will contribute at least 10x the property tax revenue than what is currently collected from the property. Construction of the Facility will create approximately 122 jobs while being built. Also, Operations and Maintenance will create additional jobs that we seek to locally source.

4. Will reflection from the panels create glare?

A common misconception about solar photovoltaic (PV) panels is that they inherently cause excessive glare, posing a nuisance to neighbors and safety risks for pilots. Light absorption rather than reflection is central to the function of solar PV panels. They absorb light and convert it into electricity. Solar PV panels are constructed of dark-colored (usually blue or black) materials and are covered with anti-reflective coatings. Modern PV panels reflect as little as two percent of incoming sunlight, about the same as water and less than soil or even wood shingles. Based upon Facility-specific modeling conducted, no excessive glare is predicted along Farm to Market Road, Adams Road or at the visual simulation observation points.

5. Has the local fire department been trained for a fire should it happen in the solar arrays?

Hecate sponsored a 4-hour training session for the local fire company and first responders on how to respond to emergencies at solar facilities. In addition, Hecate is donating a utility terrain vehicle (UTV) designed for firefighting to Cossackie Hose Company No. 3. This vehicle will cut response times for hard to reach locations throughout the department's protection area.

https://www.hudsonvalley360.com/news/greencounty/solar-project-donates-utv-to-fire-co/article_97224d6a-e663-5234-ab34-f2c3be1637bc.html

6. Will the solar project make noise?

There will be little to no noise from the solar Facility during operation, and it will operate in compliance with any noise restrictions adopted by the Siting Board.

7. How will the project affect farmland?

Solar farms are among the least disruptive of any electricity-producing technologies. In many cases they improve farmland by reducing chemical additives to the land and allowing the land to sit fallow and recharge for potential future farming. This Facility's impact on the soil will be limited to the spots where steel beams (racking posts) are driven into the ground to support the solar panel arrays, and where foundations will be built to hold inverter stations and transformers. When the life of the Facility ends, decommissioning will remove all components of the Facility so the land can be easily returned to full agricultural production.

8. How will the solar farm affect area drainage, ponds, streams, and stormwater run-off, particularly around Sleepy Hollow Lake?

It is important to ongoing operations of the Facility that drainage be maintained and—in many cases— improved. The land below the solar arrays will be planted with a low-growing seed mix of native grasses and other low-maintenance varieties to promote precipitation infiltration and reduce water run-off and soil erosion.

An analysis of the potential for the Greene County Solar Facility to affect water quality conditions in Sleepy Hollow Lake has been completed. Comparing soil loss from existing agricultural activities to the establishment of meadow habitat throughout the life of the Facility determined a reduction of approximately 21 tons of sediment (74% less; when assuming the land is being farmed for hay in the model).

9. What happens when solar panels get damaged?

If solar panels are broken or damaged through acts of nature or otherwise, there are no materials that will leak out or pollute the air or water. The project company will be responsible for any repairs or maintenance.

10. Will there be any cleaning agents used to wash the panels?

We do not wash panels with chemicals. To the extent washing is needed, which is expected to be quite infrequently due to regular rainfall, water will be used.

11. How will the vegetation around and under the solar arrays be maintained?

Vegetation management will primarily be done with periodic mowing and trimming. Little or no chemical vegetation control is planned once the site is stabilized. Hecate also is exploring the potential incorporation of pollinator-friendly vegetation, apiaries, and suitable crop co-location, if feasible.

The Facility's certificate conditions will detail construction and operational requirements for vegetation maintenance. The site will be inspected periodically, including inspection of vegetation maintenance activities.

12. How will this project affect wildlife?

The Facility site will be built on cultivated cropland, which is seasonally disturbed for agriculture. The land will be converted from agricultural farmland to a solar facility for the life of the Facility. A conservation plan to maintain 100s of acres for habitat will be implemented.

13. How will visual impacts be addressed?

Hecate has significantly adapted its site plan to minimize the visibility of the Facility. Vegetative screening will be established to further minimize the visibility of the Facility.

14. Where will the solar farm's electricity go?

The electricity will flow to the nearest local points of demand.

15. What will happen when the solar farm ends its operating life?

When the Facility stops producing power, the site will be cleared of all above-ground Facility components, which will be properly disposed. Most of the materials used to build the Facility will be steel, aluminum and glass, which allow for recycling. The land will be restored to essentially its preexisting condition, and in consideration of the landowner's requests.

16. Why build a solar facility in Greene County?

Because we all want cleaner air. Solar energy can displace fossil-fueled power, avoiding its harmful emissions. New York State currently gets only 28% of its electricity from clean, renewable resources like solar, wind and hydropower.

Similar solar and wind projects are being proposed throughout the State. This location also offers efficient transmission capabilities with limited grid improvements needed.

17. How are the two ad hoc public members designated to serve on the Siting Board?

Generally, one is appointed by the President Pro Tem (Majority Leader) of the New York State Senate and one is appointed by the Speaker of the New York State Assembly from a list of candidates submitted to them.

18. Is there battery storage planned for this project?

No.

19. How were cumulative impacts assessed for the proposed project?

Article 10 requirements for cumulative impacts analyses are limited to air emissions and cumulative environmental impacts of related facilities such as this Facility's interconnection. A cumulative impact assessment for air emissions is not required, as Facility operations will have no air emissions. The Application considered the potential environmental impacts of the Facility's related facilities as required. In addition, in accordance with the Stipulations, the Application discussed potential cumulative impacts to grassland birds (Avian Cumulative Impact Assessment Report). Hecate Greene also recently reviewed the potential cumulative impacts of the Facility and the proposed Flint Mine project on sediment run-off into Sleepy Hollow Lake and the structural integrity of the Sleepy Hollow Lake dam and concluded that both projects will reduce such impacts.

20. What kind of fencing surrounding the project is proposed?

Fencing surrounding the Facility will consist of chain link fencing that is 7-8 feet tall, and will be installed per utility code requirements.

21. What details are available for the Facility’s decommissioning plan, and will Hecate be required to post a bond to cover these costs?

Hecate Greene will propose a Certificate Condition regarding decommissioning costs and a bond or letter of credit for such costs that are consistent with the proposed certificate conditions of other Article 10 solar facilities. Final decommissioning and site restoration costs will be covered by the letter of credit. The decommissioning estimate required by the Certificate Condition will include costs of hauling, overhead expenses, and an environmental monitor. The decommissioning cost estimate will be updated periodically by a qualified independent engineer.

22. Please provide details on discussions related to Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) negotiations.

The specific terms of these negotiations are still in progress; however, payments are estimated to total approximately \$4.5 million over the 35-year life of the Facility.

23. What mitigation or conservation measures are proposed to address potential impacts to wildlife, including grassland bird species?

The Facility has been sited and designed to provide an optimum balance of the functional requirements of the Facility while avoiding and minimizing potential impacts to all environmental resources (including habitats, plant communities, agricultural resources, protected species, and archaeological resources) to the maximum extent practicable. Hecate has developed a preliminary Net Conservation Benefit Plan (Plan) and is currently in discussions with parties to finalize this Plan. Once implemented, the Plan is expected to provide:

- enhancement of 378 acres of grassland habitat, including enhancement of wetland habitats;
- establishment of high-quality open grassland habitat and prey species availability through various modification measures to establish nesting sites and reduce predation for grassland bird species; and
- implementation of post-construction monitoring of wintering raptor use of lands converted from agricultural uses to a solar facility. This would be accomplished through the establishment of a conservation easement on approximately 215 acres of lands within the Facility Area boundaries, and preservation of approximately 163 acres of grassland management areas located off-site.

24. Will the solar panels cause an increase in ambient air temperature?

Panels are designed to be dark and absorb light and energy. Although this will inherently heat up the surface of the panels, an increase in ambient air temperature above the panels is not expected to materially increase.

25. How will success of the vegetation screening be ensured in consideration of deer browsing that is expected?

Hecate is re-evaluating the species to be used for vegetative screening in light of deer and other concerns raised by parties.

26. If I still have questions or comments about the Facility or its Article 10 Application process, how can I communicate these to Hecate?

At any time during the Facility’s permitting, construction or operations process, questions can be submitted to the Facility’s dedicated email address (contact@greencountysolar.info) or telephone number (833-529-6597), and a representative will provide a timely response.