

FOX METRO SOLAR FARM

On January 9, 2021 Fox Metro “Energized” its 2 MW Solar Farm located North of Wastewater Treatment Facility on a vacant 45-acre parcel which allowed the District to repurpose the Brownfield site. The Solar Farm will provide clean, renewable energy to power 16% of Fox Metro’s energy. To check out LIVE Fox Metro Solar Farm Production go to:

<https://progressivebusinesssolutions.com/foxmetrosolarfarm-liveproduction/>

How Does This Benefit Fox Metro?



Lower Electricity Cost

The ground-mounted single access tracker solar farm is expected to save Fox Metro \$160,000 per and over \$4 million dollars over the life of the project which is 25 years. The savings opportunity became possible as a result of the Illinois Future Jobs Act of 2016.



No Upfront Capital Cost

The project was developed by Progressive Business Solutions who helped originate, develop, competitively bid the solar field construction, and found the financial resources to fund the project. Under a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) model, GRNE Solar of Palatine designed, permitted, financed and installed the solar energy project for a 25-year term. In return, Fox Metro pays for the electricity generated by the system at a predictable price below their existing utility rate.



Community Impact

The Fox Metro Solar Farm will not only reduce operating costs for their facilities, it will lower the impact the District has on the electric grid. This will allow for more power to be distributed to area businesses and residents without building more generation. Fox Metro will lower its Carbon Footprint by reducing the facilities emissions. The field will provide an on-site learning opportunity for students that routinely tour the plant. Additionally, Fox Metro will receive the designation as an EPA Green Power Partner which furthers the District’s commitment to reduce its Carbon Footprint in an Environmentally and Economically Responsible manner.



Environmental Impact

The Fox Metro Solar Farm will generate over 3.3 million kWh during the first year of operation and over 82.5 million kWh over the term of project. According to the EPA Greenhouse Gas Equivalency Calculator, the project will eliminate over 128,000 pounds of Carbon Dioxide from the Earth atmosphere.

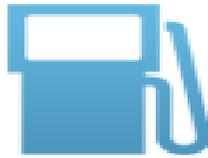
Carbon Emission Reduction Equivalency

145 Million Car Miles



or

6.5 Million Gallon of Gas



or

Charging 7.4 Billion
Cell Phones



EDUCATIONAL LINK

[How Do Solar Panels Work? \(Physics of Solar Cells\) - YouTube](#)

WHAT AREA LEADERS ARE SAYING....

“Our management team is continually looking for ways to reduce our impact on the electric grid, while maintaining safe reliable service for area residents.” said **Judith Sotir, Board President at Fox Metro Water Reclamation District.**

“At Fox Metro, we are continually looking for ways to reduce our carbon footprint in a financially responsible manner. This project accomplishes both those goals.” said **Tom Muth, District Manager at Fox Metro WRD.**

“We want Industries that create jobs in Illinois to stay in Illinois,” said **Rep. Keith Wheeler of Illinois’ 50th district.** “The Fox Valley solar development is a testimony to the job creation engine that solar energy has become in our state over the past few years as a result of the Future Energy Jobs Act. Utilizing the FEJA to lower their operating costs without spending new taxpayer money is a good example of our community’s leadership which enabled the building of the largest solar development in our local area.

Frequently Asked Questions?

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING NOW IN ILLINOIS?

With the passage of the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) of 2016 Solar became a financially viable option for Illinois consumers. With the passage of the FEJA a fund was established to create Renewable Energy Credits (REC's) that would be given to Solar Companies to help offset the cost of building the solar fields. Illinois has a renewable energy goal of 25 percent of all electricity by 2026 and Behind the Meter Solar projects such as this one, will help meet this goal.

WHO FUNDED THE FUTURE ENERGY JOBS ACT?

All residents, business, governmental organizations and non-profits pay into a renewable energy fund which is collected on customer's ComEd and Ameren bill. By being selected Fox Metro was able to recapture some of the money collected and put it to work for the ratepayer reducing the District's electric cost.

WAS THIS PROJECT COMPETITIVELY BID?

This project was competitively bid to ensure that the lowest qualified bidder was chosen. GRNE Solar was chosen from more than 10 solar companies who inquired or presented a bid and participated in the site visit.

HOW DID THE PROJECT CREATE LOCAL JOBS?

Progressive Business Solutions regularly works with local businesses to develop and construct solar facilities. This solar field was designed, constructed, and financed by GRNE an Illinois Company located in Palatine, IL. Illinois companies provided services including but not limited to development, engineering, construction, and site preparation. The solar industry included over 250,000 workers in 2019. Since the first Solar Jobs Census was published, American solar jobs have increased 167% since 2010.

IS THERE A DANGER FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY?

No, a security fence exists at the property and a second fence will be built surrounding the solar energy facility in accordance with the Village of Montgomery's applicable electrical and building codes.

WILL ENDANGERED SPECIES BE IMPACTED?

No, Prior to project construction, our development team screened the site for potential impacts to federal and state listed species, including a comprehensive tree study.

DOES THE SOLAR PROJECT PRODUCE LIGHT OR GLARE?

Only a security light for property access. The solar project itself does not produce any light. It actually absorbs light to create energy. Solar panels are designed to minimize glare.

WILL THE SOLAR PROJECT PRODUCE ANY NOISE?

Electrical inverters which convert power from direct current (DC) to AC and associated electrical equipment can generate noise at a solar energy site. The low hum of the electrical equipment is not generally heard at distances greater than 100 feet from the electrical equipment. Noise can also be generated during periodic mowing and trimming of the facility during operation.

WILL THERE BE A DEDICATION CEREMONY?

Yes. Due to the current restrictions related to Covid 19 Fox Metro decided to delay the dedication ceremony. A tentative date has been set for April 21, 2021 in conjunction with Earth Day activities. Further details will be forthcoming.

WHAT OTHER COMMUNITIES ARE DOING THIS?

Kendall County, City of Plano, Fox Metro Water Reclamation District, all Kendall County Municipalities were selected to participate in this program. Additionally, Mooseheart Child City in Kane County was selected. Together these solar fields represent Chicagoland's Largest 'Behind the Meter' Solar Development located in the Fox Valley. All four fields are operating as expected. Together these solar fields will generate \$14.5 million dollars in lower electric costs and generate over 255 Million kWh of environmentally friendly energy. 100% of the solar projects developed by Progressive Business Solutions received funding, are "Energized" and fully operational.

IS IT TOO LATE TO PARTICIPATE?

Although the initial round of funding is closed. Progressive Business Solutions is currently working with area Municipal and Business leaders to ensure that they are included in the next round of funding which is expected to be in Mid 2021 or 2022. The State Legislature is currently considering how to repopulate the FEJA fund. It is important to get your project application submitted to ensure you are on a waitlist when the new funding is approved. If you wait until the rules/funding becomes available you are likely to be too late as the waitlist candidates have been made a priority in the past.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

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