

# BUCKHEART SOLAR

**Buckheart Solar is a solar photovoltaic project proposed for Fulton County, Illinois. It will generate clean, emissions-free energy and substantial local revenues for decades to come. Buckheart Solar looks forward to working with the local community in the planning and development of this important project.**

## **TOGETHER WE SHINE BRIGHTER**

Buckheart Solar is a proposed renewable energy resource which will create a new economic opportunity for the community and a new source of revenue for schools and government services. The project will create both short-term (construction) and long-term (maintenance and operational) jobs in the local area, as well as supporting local businesses through purchases at area businesses, shops, restaurants, and hotels.

In addition, solar power is one of the most cost-effective sources of electricity today, and its ability to generate power during high-demand times reduces the cost of electricity for all consumers.

## **LOCAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS:**

- When completed and operational, Buckheart Solar will generate new tax payments for local governments. These taxes will provide millions of new dollars per year without requiring any additional services from the county.
- The project will bring more than 300 jobs to Fulton County during the construction phase: more than 10 new long-term jobs for project operations; and additional work to local subcontractors for site maintenance.
- The total project capital investment is estimated to be around \$800 million dollars.
- Helps local farmers and landowners diversify their income through long term, guaranteed solar lease payments that can be reinvested in their farms and communities.
- Using lease-option analysis, land use value of solar leasing far exceeds the value for agricultural use.
- At the end of its operational life, the equipment will be recycled or reused, and the land returned to its original condition. The condition of the soil will be improved substantially due to the long resting period and the use of native vegetation under the panels.
- A decommissioning plan will be in place which protects the taxpayers and landowners from decommissioning costs.



# ABOUT THE PROJECT



Will generate enough clean energy to power 118,000 homes.



Expected to be operational in 2025.



Panel height and vegetative screening will limit project visibility to neighbors and nearby roads.



Landowner retains ownership of land during and after lease; landowner may choose to resume farming after lease expires.



Over \$120 million reinvested back into local communities over the life of the project.\*



This project helps meet the growing demand for clean, renewable energy sources in Illinois and the state's commitment to be carbon-neutral by 2045.



Life cycle: 30 years from date of commercial operation.



The project is 820 megawatts (MW).



Proposed on approximately 8,000 acres of privately-owned land.

\*Based on current tax-formulas and an 820 MW project size.

## TIMELINE



Apply for  
State Permits  
**2022**



Receive State  
Permit Approvals  
**2023**



Begin  
Construction  
**2024**



Site  
Operational  
**2025**

Timeline subject to change

## STAY CONNECTED FOR THE LATEST INFO ON BUCKHEART SOLAR

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