**PROJECT FACT SHEET**

Solar Farm 2.0 is a 12.32 megawatt (MWdc) utility-scale array located on campus, north of Curtis Road, between First Street and Dunlap Avenue (U.S. 45), near the Village of Savoy.

The solar farm produces approximately 20,000 megawatt-hours per year (MWh/year)—tripling the university’s existing on-site renewable energy generation. Solar Farm 2.0 helped the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign make the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s top-30 list of the largest on-site green power users in the Green Power Partnership. The university is the third-largest user of renewable power produced on campus for all higher education institutions in the country.

Renewable electricity production helps meet sustainability goals outlined in the Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP), campus’ plan to meet the Climate Leadership Commitments, including being carbon neutral as soon as possible and building resilience to climate change in the local community. Learn more at icap.sustainability.illinois.edu.

**PROJECT SPECIFICS**

- A 20-year power purchase agreement with Sol Systems LLC, to design, build, operate, and maintain Solar Farm 2.0
- A 20-year land lease agreement
- Electricity produced by the farm is delivered to the campus grid
- All the renewable energy certificates and carbon credits are owned by the university

**ARRAY DETAILS**

- **System size (dc):** 12,318,930 watts  
- **Peak output:** 10 MWac  
- **Module type:** bifacial monocrystalline  
- **Module wattage:** 400/395/385  
- **Module dimensions (in):** 39.1 x 77  
- **Modules per string:** 26  
- **Total strings:** 1,197

**LANDSCAPE BUFFER**

The landscape buffer zone is a fence line foundation planting that positions large trees and shrubs to reduce the visual impact of the solar farm installation on nearby residential neighborhoods. Partially funded by the Student Sustainability Committee, the landscape buffer includes over 200 trees and several native plant species meant to increase pollinator and ecosystem benefits.

**PROJECT TIMELINE**

- **Request for Proposal Publication:** February 2019  
- **Board of Trustees Approval:** September 2019  
- **Contracts Signed:** December 2019  
- **Start of Construction:** July 2020  
- **Commercial Operation Date:** January 2021  
- **University Ownership:** 2041

**PROJECT CONTACTS**

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**PROJECT LOCATION**

- **Project location:** The array is located on 54 acres immediately north of Curtis Road between First Street and the railroad tracks.
Frequently Asked Questions

**How much did the project cost?**
The total cost of the project was $20.1M. The university saved $300,000 in its first year compared to electricity that would have been purchased conventionally from the regional grid.

**What is the lifespan for the type of panels used at the solar farm?**
The panels are warrantied for 25 years. Solar energy researchers on campus estimate that the panels will continue to collect energy for up to 40 years.

**Who uses the power from the Solar Farm?**
All of the electricity generated by Solar Farm 2.0 will be used exclusively by the Urbana campus. Approximately six percent of the campus’ annual power demand will be generated by solar arrays on campus.

**Are there any risks or dangers to living near a solar farm? Will the panels present any kind of inconvenience to nearby areas?**
No. Solar photovoltaic panels are one of the least intrusive and cleanest ways to generate electricity. Their height is lower than the average cornstalk. The panels’ dark coating maximizes light absorption and efficiency. Because light is not lost through reflection, the surrounding air temperature is not affected. Additionally, site traffic is limited to monthly tours and periodic grounds maintenance by contractors.

**What measures have been taken to protect the wildlife that visit or live on the property?**
In accordance with the State of Illinois Pollinator Solar Site Act, Solar Farm 2.0 is home to dozens of pollinator-friendly plants. This pollinator-friendly site serves local and migratory birds/insects, butterflies, and bees. The plants selected for Solar Farm 2.0 were 100 percent native species, benefitting the local insect population.

To view Solar Farm 2.0 production, visit go.fs.illinois.edu/SolarFarmDashboard