

Community information

Prairie Ronde Solar Farm



The Prairie Ronde Solar project is currently under construction in St. Landry Parish. Lightsource bp is building and will own and operate the privately funded \$170 million renewable energy project that will deliver electricity into the local grid, helping with Louisiana's energy independence and energy security.

The project will generate new tax revenue for St. Landry Parish without an increase on its citizens, provide long term stable income for landowners, create new jobs during construction and operations, and will reduce carbon emissions for healthier air.

Lightsource bp has an approach to project development known as Responsible Solar, which means we work hard to make each of our solar projects a net positive for the community and that we are good long-term partners of the community.

In developing the Prairie Ronde Solar project, we have adhered to the ordinance adopted by St. Landry Parish Government, which provides local regulatory control over solar farms. Key elements of the ordinance, which complement our best practices for solar farm development, include:

- Strategic placement of buffer zones and vegetative screening to limit visual impact.
- Development of comprehensive drainage and traffic management plans, which include plans and guarantees for remediation if any damage is done to Parish infrastructure during construction.
- Stipulating how the site would be decommissioned at the end of its life.

Our long-term Land Maintenance and Biodiversity plan for the site includes plans to support habitat conservation, increase biodiversity on site and ensure it blends with the aesthetic character of the area. We will be restoring one area of the site to native Coastal Prairie, as well as putting Eastern Bluebird boxes around the perimeter.

Contact us at

USCommunityRelations@lightsourcebp.com

Numbers as of July 2023

New tax revenue

property taxes from project to benefit local schools & other public services



\$20M

over project life



\$8.3M

first five years after construction begins

Clean electricity

locally generated renewable power



180MW_{DC}

contributing to Louisiana's energy security



231,800MT

of CO₂ reduced each year

Jobs

created by the project for the community



230-280

direct jobs during construction

Investment in Louisiana

new energy infrastructure privately funded



\$170M

private capital will fully fund this project



\$3.9M

annual operations budget primarily spent in the region

Project details

Economic benefits

- Throughout the life of the project, \$20 million in new tax revenue is expected to be generated, which will go toward local school systems, emergency services and many other services – without an increase in taxes to local residents.
- 250 jobs will be created during peak construction of the project, the majority of which will be filled by members of the local labor force.
- Lightsource bp is committed to dedicating \$250,000 in funds to philanthropic activities and charitable donations to local St. Landry Parish organizations. So far, we are dedicating \$150,000 toward the Welcome Center at the Veterans Memorial and \$10,000 to Plaisance Middle School for football helmets.

Environmental due diligence and stewardship

- Trees and shrubbery are typically planted to screen the project from neighbors' views and provide additional habitat for local wildlife.
- A long-term Land Management and Biodiversity plan will establish habitats to increase biodiversity through Coastal Prairie restoration and natural undergrowth below the panels, which helps to manage water runoff and drainage.
- Prior to construction, the site will be seeded to help stabilize the soil, reduce runoff, provide wildlife-benefiting pollinators and increase soil health.

Aesthetics

- Minimum 150-foot public road setbacks and 150-foot minimum home setbacks will be adhered to.
- The solar farm will include various buffer zones with vegetative screening to limit the visual impact.
- An agricultural style fence with wooden posts, consistent with the local aesthetic of the area, will be installed around the project, as opposed to industry-standard chain link fencing.

Long-term management

- \$3.9 million will be invested annually during operations to maintain the facility and the land, and will induce economic growth throughout the Parish and State.
- Land Management and Biodiversity Plans are created for all projects in our portfolio to document the results of site-specific environmental studies, best management practices, regulatory compliance, and biodiversity initiatives.

Decommissioning and recycling

- A full decommissioning plan will ensure that the project will be dismantled, removed and recycled at the end of its life and that the land can be used for agricultural activities or another use as deemed appropriate by the next generation.
- Lightsource bp will recycle all solar panels used at the project - damaged or non-performing panels during construction and operations, and at end of life/decommissioning.



A flock of sheep grazes at a Lightsource bp solar farm in Pennsylvania



We have seen plant and bird habitats increase at our solar farms



Solar panels are mounted on posts, enabling growth of vegetation underneath that allows for natural drainage and the interception of storm water



Rich ecosystem under and around solar panels shown at Lightsource bp solar farm in Texas



As they follow the sun during the day, solar panels reach a max height similar to a field of corn