

FLAT CREEK SOLAR PROJECT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – ISSUE #6



44. What type of physical or electronic security will be employed in and around the panels once in operation?

To ensure site security, the Flat Creek solar project will be enclosed by a security fence with several gates for personnel or emergency access. All equipment and solar arrays will be enclosed by fencing, which will not be open to the public and will be accessible to authorized personnel only. The perimeter fencing will be secured by self-locking gates to prevent unauthorized access. Signage will be placed along the perimeter fence to warn against trespassing, provide safety information, and provide contact details. Local emergency responders will be provided access to all entry points, via keys, knock boxes, or gate keypad codes.

Electronic security and surveillance measures will be installed to alert us to any security breaches. The project substation and switchyard will also be equipped with motion-controlled lighting, entry alarms, and video surveillance capabilities.

45. Once the system is in operation, will there be groundskeeping operations to cut and maintain grass, and if so, will the local population be eligible for that work?

Yes, we will develop and implement a Vegetation Management Plan that establishes vegetation goals and identifies the specific treatments that may be used to ensure safe and reliable operation of the facility. Common practices to control and manage vegetation include periodic mowing and trimming, and we will look to hire these services locally where feasible. There is also the potential to use sheep grazing for vegetation control in some areas.

46. Who will finance the project's grid interconnection (switchyard), and who will ultimately own it?

The project pays for construction of the point of interconnection switchyard, which connects the project into the existing New York Power Authority (NYPA) 345 kV Transmission Line #352. Ownership of the switchyard is transferred to NYPA once construction is complete.

47. Intertie vs. panel installation – will this be a phased installation or does one precede the other?

Construction of the intertie (where the project ties into the electric grid) is expected to happen in parallel with the panel installation.

48. Where can we see the amount of money Flat Creek has donated to local fire departments, police agencies, etc.?

As of April 1, 2025, Flat Creek has made the following donations:

- \$1,000 to the Ames Volunteer Fire Department
- \$2,000 to the Village of Canajoharie Police Department
- \$8,000 to the Montgomery County Agricultural Society for the Fonda Fair

If you feel there are any local events or organizations that might benefit from support, please let us know.

49. What does strong solar resource mean?

A strong solar resource means that the availability of sunlight in a given area is robust enough to produce reliable power over the course of a year. Solar projects are being installed in all 50 states across the US, and New York State, which has considerable amounts of solar potential, has consistently been in the top 10 US solar markets.

As part of the Flat Creek solar project development process, we measured and analyzed solar and weather data in the project area to confirm that the solar resource can support long-term project operations.¹

50. You say that posts will go about 12 feet deep – what happens if a post can't go past 3-6 feet?

To properly anchor a ground-mounted solar array, driven piles (or posts) must be installed to a certain depth – in the case of Flat Creek, 12 feet – to support the weight of the panels without the use of stabilizing concrete. If during the Flat Creek solar project's construction, a post is unable to be installed 12 feet deep, we may require the use of concrete to ensure that specific post is secure and stable. In that instance, the concrete will be poured below ground level and will not alter the natural terrain or interfere with surface water runoff. In areas of shallow bedrock, ground screws may also be used which anchor the panel racking directly to the bedrock.

51. We don't have seasonal roads, we have minimum maintenance roads – how will first responders be able to respond using those roads?

In the event of an emergency, local emergency service providers will take the most direct/fastest available route to the site, depending upon current conditions and their starting location. Flat Creek has communicated with local emergency service providers and shared copies of the Facility Site Security Plan and Facility Site Safety Response Plan. All access roads installed as part of the project will be designed for emergency service access with 20-foot widths, emergency vehicle load bearing capacity, turnarounds on each road, and emergency responder accessible gating.

52. How much is the estimated facility cost?

The Flat Creek solar project capital investment is estimated to be greater than \$350 million.

53. Will you use union/local labor?

Yes, union labor will be used on the project, and we will source materials and equipment locally where feasible.

54. Do workers get paid per panel?

Construction workers will be paid the hourly prevailing wage.

55. Are the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and Cordelio taxed differently?

Yes. Cordelio is a privately owned company and is therefore subject to taxation. NYPA is a state-owned public power organization and is exempt from taxation.

1. <https://seia.org/research-resources/cheatsheet/>