FIDDLEHEAD SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Hecate Energy is a leading developer, owner and operator of innovative energy generation projects and storage solutions in the United States.

- Hecate Energy develops clean energy power plants and energy campuses from planning and inception through construction and operation.
- Founded in 2012 by a team of energy industry veterans who have worked together for more than 25 years, Hecate Energy's team has developed thousands of megawatts of electricity generation projects across the United States.
- Hecate Energy has entered into over 6 gigawatts (powering approximately 1.35M homes) of renewable power purchase agreements since 2012 and has approximately 40 gigawatts of additional projects, under development.

"Solar energy serves the growing demands of today's increasingly electrified lives. Communities welcome solar projects because they are quiet neighbors, using essentially no municipal resources yet significantly boosting a community's revenue base."

— Mark Zwieg, Project Developer

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TECHNOLOGY and EQUIPMENT

- Fiddlehead Solar will be configured as a ground-mounted solar facility with photovoltaic (PV) panels on galvanized steel tracker structures.
- The project will include rows of single- axis trackers that rotate the PV panels to follow the sun's daily path, optimizing the amount of power the solar facility can produce.
- The PV array is low-profile, approximately 10' above grade at the tallest point in the mornings and evenings (approximate height of mature corn stalks).
- The solar panels planned for the project are the crystalline type commonly used for residential rooftop systems. They contain the same materials (glass, aluminum, plastic) used in your home's windows.
- The equipment used at the project will be free of PFAS or toxic materials and will not adversely affect surface or groundwater.
- The Project will prioritize using domestic sourced materials, Michigan based contractors, and regional labor to build and maintain the facility to the maximum extent available.

Coeymans Solar, NY

Clarke Solar, VA

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ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Potential impacts are rigorously studied in the permitting process administered by the State of Michigan in conjunction with local stakeholders. Issues pertaining to community, wildlife, and wetland impacts, among others, are addressed as part of this comprehensive process.

Wildlife, Habitat and Rare Species

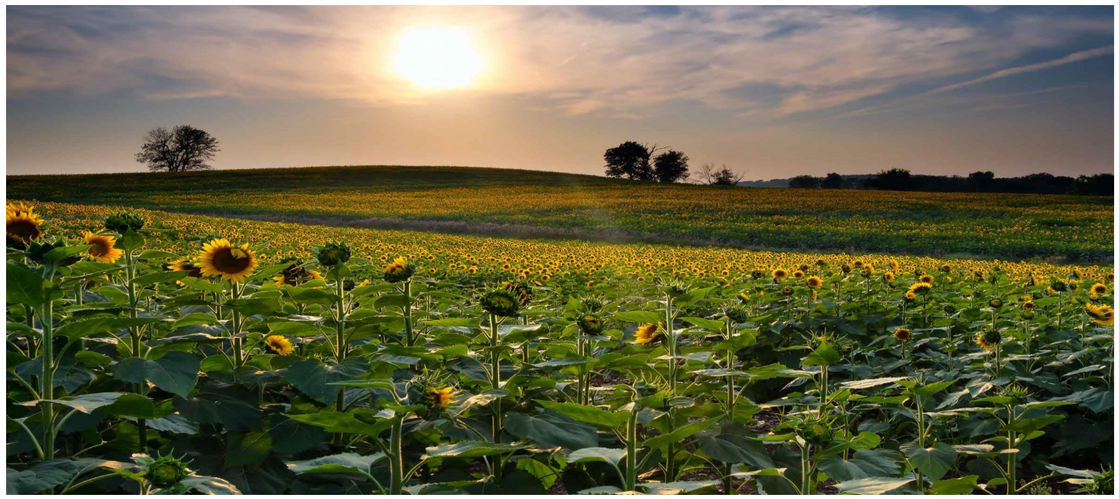
- The Project has undertaken several consultations and environmental studies including evaluating habitat for common and rare species.
- The layout will reflect a focus on wildlife habitat and corridors.
- Hecate has designed the Project to minimize impacts to wildlife and will mitigate adverse impacts of the Project, including possible time of year work restrictions on certain construction activities.

Wetlands, Streams and Drains

- The Project has completed wetland and stream delineations, including identification of county drains.
- Hecate will consult in an ongoing way with local agencies and stakeholders to address water resources, stormwater management and hydrology.
- The results of wetland and stream delineations informs Project layouts. Hecate is committed to avoiding and minimizing impacts to aquatic resources to the maximum extent practical.

Additional Studies Conducted

- The Project has completed hydrology and geotechnical studies to insure project constructability and site suitability.
- Other studies are being conducted to support State Siting Permitting including visibility assessment, land use, agriculture, soils, noise, transportation and socioeconomics - all studies that are conducted by professional experienced consultants.



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PERMITTING PROCESS

Anticipated Project Permits

- Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) Siting Certificate
- Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) waterway permits
- County Drain Permits
- Stormwater Permits for Construction
- Highway Work Permits

Overview of Siting Permit

- The process is overseen by an administrative law judge.
- The Act allows property owners and affected local units (ALUs) to "intervene".
- The MPSC has one year after a complete application to issue a ruling or decision.
- The MPSC would determine if the benefits of the project justify its construction.

Key Provisions of the Law Include:

- Effective November 29, 2024, the MPSC Public Act 233, authorizes the MPSC to issue siting certificates ("Part 8 Certificate") for the construction of solar energy facilities with nameplate capacities of 50 MW or more ("Qualified Renewable Energy Facility"). Requires applicants to evaluate, avoid, and minimize environmental and cultural resource impacts and identify potential mitigation measures to address those unavoidable impacts if applicable.
- Requires Applicants to conduct pre-application activities including meeting with each local community and meet with MPSC staff prior to application.

Permitting Progress

- Hecate plans to complete pre-construction activities and submit an Application to MPSC by the end of 2025. The public can review all submitted application materials.
- MPSC has 60 days to review application and determine its completeness and define any deficiencies, if any.
- Other permits, such as EGLE, stormwater permits, highway work permits will be sought closer to construction.

We are very early in the process!

	2025	2025	2026		2027
	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd – 4th Quarters	1st or 2nd Quarter 2027
PROJECT SCHEDULE	Consultations with Townships/Counties (ALUs) and Hold Open House	Complete Studies, Meet with MPSC and Submit Application to MPSC; Notify Public	Hold technical conference Application Deemed Complete by MPSC (60 days)	MPSC review of Application Prepare other Project Permit Applications	Application Decision by MPSC If Certificate Issued, Commence Pre-Construction and Construction Activities

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COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Fiddlehead Solar will be a good neighbor - supplying affordable energy and an array of economic benefits to the community.

Community Benefits

- The Project generates long-term dedicated revenue for the townships, counties and schools/taxing jurisdictions.
- Over $31,000,000 in payments are made over the life of the Project.
- New revenues will be significantly higher than the current tax revenue generated by the land on which the project will be sited.
- Creates a new local continuous revenue stream for community services, including the local fire department and ambulance company, while making minimal use of their services.

Economic Benefits

Employment Opportunities

- Approximately 250 construction jobs created during peak construction.
- Total construction payroll is estimated to be approximately $40 million in direct onsite employment during the construction-phase of the Project.
- Project operation would provide direct employment for the equivalent of 4-6 full-time well-paying jobs.
- Ongoing operations and maintenance will require annual non-payroll expenditures over the 30-year study period of the site for materials and operation supplies and landscaping services.
- Local businesses and workers contracted for engineering, surveying, site preparation, construction and ongoing operation and maintenance support.

Regional Economic Impact

- Pursuant to MPSC Siting Regulations, the minimum Host Community Agreement Payments will include approximately $450,000 in contributions to the host communities.
- Additionally, Payment In Lieu of Tax (PILT) Agreements would contribute additional payments of more than $30 million over the life of the Project.

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MAINTENANCE & DECOMMISSIONING

The Project will be operated, maintained and decommissioned responsibly, with a plan in place to restore the land to productive use at the end of its operational life.

Maintenance

- Solar panels are generally quite robust, durable, and low maintenance.
- If solar panels are broken or damaged through acts of nature or otherwise, there are no materials that will leak out or pollute the air or ground. Hecate Energy will be responsible for any repairs or maintenance.
- Panels generally cleaned by precipitation. No chemicals used.

Decommissioning

- The project will prepare a decommissioning plan that will include a requirement to issue a financial assurance for the decommissioning and site restoration estimate. The site restoration estimate is equal to the gross decommissioning and site restoration estimate less the total projected salvage value of components.
- Project decommissioning is triggered by certain events, such as when the Project components reach the end of their operational life (although components will likely be updated as technology improves over time). The Project's Decommissioning Agreement will include an estimated net decommissioning cost with an obligation to update such estimate periodically.
- For purposes of calculating salvage value, the decommissioning plan conservatively assumes that the modules will be sold at scrap value, not resale value.
- Project components such as panels may be recycled. All components that cannot be recycled will be disposed of in compliance with all legal requirements.

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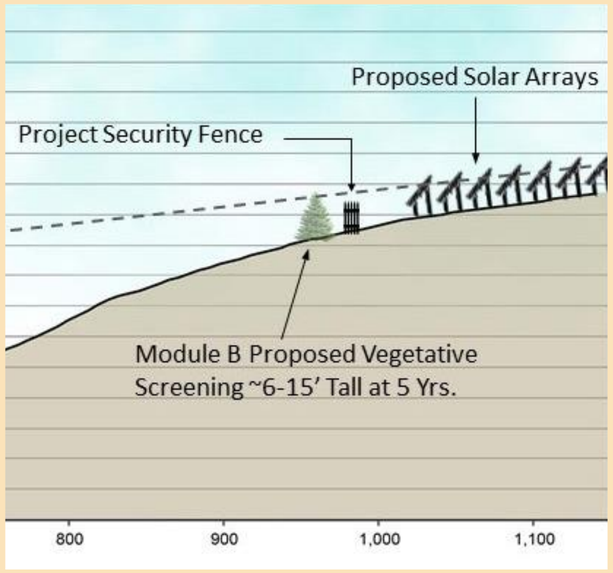
VISUAL BUFFERS AND SCREENING

The Project will use vegetative screening to soften and/or screen views of the solar facility and provide ecological benefit and diversity.

- Selection will be based upon using native, naturalized and non-invasive species that simulate the character of the surrounding landscape.
- Trees will be used to provide screening, and native or naturalized local shrub species will be selected for wildlife value and visual interest.
- When selecting the planting palette some characteristics considered are native/naturalized, locale, hardiness zone, seasonal interest, and wildlife value.
- The project will use a low growing, pollinator friendly ground cover and regular mowing to control weeds and prevent erosion.
- Plant material will be maintained by the construction contractor until completion of the Project, when the Project takes over the maintenance duties.
- Over a two-year period, the project will ensure proper growth of all plantings made for screening or landscaping purposes.
- The project will include extensive setbacks, including 100ft from all neighboring parcels and 300ft from non-participating buildings.



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PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

We know the project will be successful with substantive input from stakeholders. **Here is how to make a comment today!**

- Write your comment by form.
- Submit your comment on a tablet.
- Record your comment verbally.

Comments will be considered in project development and presented in the record of permitting. Public comment opportunities will continue throughout the permitting process.

We actively engage the public through project briefings, informational open houses, media coverage, public notices, mailings, email, and other means. We believe in building collaborative, long- term partnerships with the communities who host our projects.

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PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Think of a question later or need to get in touch?

Contact us at

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Or visit our website

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