

**MARION COUNTY**  
**SOLAR PROJECT**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON GROUND-MOUNTED  
**SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS**



## End-of-Life Decommissioning

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### How are solar panels managed when they are no longer in use?

At the time of decommissioning, panels may be reused, recycled, or disposed. The project land can be restored to its original condition.

## Health Risks / Materials

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### Are there health risks from the electric and magnetic fields (EMF) from solar panels?

Solar energy produces no emissions, waste, odor, or byproducts. The extremely low frequency EMF from PV arrays and transmission lines is the same as the EMF people are exposed to from household electrical appliances and wiring in buildings.

### Can chemicals that might be contained in solar PV threaten public drinking water systems and/or wetland resources?

All solar panels are contained in a solid matrix, are insoluble, and are enclosed. Therefore, releases are not a concern. (MA Department of Energy Resources, et al.) Rules are in place to ensure that ground-mounted solar arrays are installed in a way that protect public water supplies, wetlands, and other water resource areas.

### How does the odor of large solar projects impact nearby residential and agricultural property?

Solar projects do not produce any byproduct or odor.

## Cleaning Protocol

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### What is the best way to clean solar panel arrays?

The most effective way to clean solar panels is with natural weather sources such as rain. In addition, it does not take a large weather event to clean panels sufficiently.

## Property Values

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### Do ground-mounted solar PV arrays negatively impact property values?

In examining property values in states across the U.S., recent studies show that living in proximity to a solar farm does not deter the sales of agricultural or residential land. According to the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), large-scale solar arrays often have no measurable impact on the value of adjacent properties.

## AG Land Use

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### How much farmland is utilized by a solar project?

Only a portion of farmland is suitable for solar energy generation. Supplying the entire U.S. with 100% PV solar energy would require about 0.6% of America's total land area. When a project is decommissioned, the land is returned to its original state, and farmers have the opportunity to go back to farming the land if they choose. (NREL and the U.S. Department of Energy)

## Solar Panel Design / Visual Impacts

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### How important is reflectivity and potential visual impacts from solar projects?

Solar panels are designed to absorb solar energy and convert it into electricity. They reflect only about 2% of incoming light, so issues with glare from PV panels are rare.

### What are the visual impacts of the solar array once constructed?

Large solar projects have similar characteristics to a greenhouse or single-story residence. They are often enclosed by fencing and/or landscaping to minimize visual impacts.

### How does the traffic associated with large solar projects impact nearby residential and agricultural property?

Solar projects do not attract high volumes of additional traffic after the construction phase is complete.

## Sound

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### How does the sound of large solar projects impact nearby residential and agricultural property?

Solar projects are effectively silent, except for the tracking motors and inverters that might produce an ambient hum. This is typically not audible from outside the project enclosure.