

BLUE RIDGE SOLAR PROJECT

Recurrent Energy is developing the Blue Ridge Solar Project, a 150 megawatt large-scale solar energy facility in Pittsylvania County, Virginia near Chatham. Once operational, the Blue Ridge Solar Project will significantly increase tax revenue for Pittsylvania County public services and will have the potential to generate enough clean electricity to power more than 37,500 homes annually. Construction is expected to begin in late 2022.

Generating Long-Term Economic Benefits for Pittsylvania County



TAX REVENUES.

The Blue Ridge Solar Project will generate \$7.5 million of long-term additional revenue to Pittsylvania County over its operational life. These revenues can be used to fund local government services, schools, road upgrades and other municipal infrastructure improvements annually.



LOCAL JOBS.

The Blue Ridge Solar Project is expected to create approximately 350 family-wage construction jobs, providing opportunities for local contractors and workers to participate in the project. The project will also support local businesses in Pittsylvania County by increasing activities among local hotels and motels, gas stations, restaurants, equipment rentals, materials suppliers, and similar businesses.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.

The Blue Ridge Solar Project is committed to partnering with its host community and will prioritize addressing unmet needs surrounding hunger, job creation, and public services.

Solar Projects are Good Neighbors

The Blue Ridge Solar Project will not be visible to adjacent properties, will not produce noise, will not generate traffic, and will not be a threat to the environment.

The Blue Ridge Solar Project will have a decommissioning plan, including a surety bond funded with Pittsylvania County to ensure no taxpayer dollars will be used for decommissioning, in place prior to the start of construction.

For the Blue Ridge Solar Project, safety is an ongoing priority. No toxic chemicals will be used during installation and construction, the solar panels can be recovered and recycled at the end of the project's life, a fence will be erected around the panel areas, and a close and collaborative partnership will be maintained with the county's first responders.



Common Frequently Asked Questions

Are solar panels safe?

Because the photovoltaic (PV) panel materials are enclosed and do not mix with water or vaporize into the air, there is little-to-no risk of chemicals, including greenhouse gasses, being released into the environment during normal use. Crystalline silicon PV panels, which are extremely common and used worldwide, “do not pose a material risk of toxicity to public health and safety.”¹

All solar facilities are designed to strict electrical safety standards to ensure safe operation. Product safety standards, installation requirements, and building codes for solar facilities are addressed by the National Fire Protection Agency’s National Electric code, the International Code Council’s International Fire Code, the International Association of Firefighters, and several other safety product and standards groups.²

Are solar panels good for the environment?

While producing electricity with photovoltaics emits no pollution, produces no greenhouse gas emissions, and uses no finite fossil fuel resources, it has been argued that solar power has a hidden carbon footprint due to solar panel manufacturing and project construction. Both fossil fuel and non-fossil fuel power technologies induce life-cycle greenhouse emissions that stem from the energy requirements for their construction and operation. Known as a “carbon debt,” this debt of energy must be paid off to calculate how solar projects reduce emissions over their lifetime. A typical utility-scale solar project—like the Blue Ridge Solar Project—repays its carbon footprint in roughly 12 months or less,³ providing decades of zero emission energy.

1. https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/static/publication/js/pdf_js/web/viewer.html?slug=health-and-safety-impacts-of-solar-photovoltaics
2. <https://www.seia.org/initiatives/fire-safety-solar>
3. <http://www.nature.com/articles/ncomms13728>
4. https://www.seia.org/sites/default/files/2019-09/Solar%20Property%20Value%20FactSheet%202019-PRINT_1.pdf

Get in Touch

Please contact us with your questions, ideas, and thoughts.

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About Recurrent Energy

Recurrent Energy is a leading utility-scale solar and storage project developer, delivering competitive, clean electricity to large energy buyers. Based in the U.S., Recurrent Energy is a wholly owned subsidiary of Canadian Solar Inc. and functions as Canadian Solar’s U.S. project development arm. Recurrent Energy has approximately 5 gigawatts of solar and storage projects in development in the U.S. Additional details are available at www.recurrentenergy.com.

Do solar projects affect property values?

Property value studies conducted across the country have shown that proximity to large-scale solar projects does not measurably impact property values or deter the sale of agricultural or residential land and in some cases may even have positive effects.⁴

Mounted solar projects are typically no more than 10 feet high, emit minimal noise, and are designed in accordance with strict electrical safety standards to ensure safe operation. In addition, the Blue Ridge Solar Project is committed to taking steps to minimize and mitigate the visual impacts of the Project through vegetative buffers and setbacks from property lines.

How will the panels be washed? Will you use groundwater?

Due to the average amount of rainfall Pittsylvania County normally experiences, we do not anticipate washing the panels more than once annually. When cleaning the solar panels, we will use distilled water, because ground water can leave a film or deposits on the panels. No chemicals or solvents will be used during the panel cleaning process.

What will you do to protect the topsoil from being depleted during construction?

Minor grading will be needed for the construction of the Blue Ridge Solar Project, but we take the conservation of topsoil very seriously. Typical construction practices require that topsoil be stripped and preserved onsite prior to performing cut/fill operations. The preserved topsoil will be redistributed across the graded areas to assist in growing adequate ground cover as quickly as possible to provide ground stabilization. Proper ground stabilization practices include soil testing to determine the appropriate levels of lime, fertilizer, and seed needed to establish ground cover.