Pollinator-Friendly Solar Resources


Land under and around solar arrays can be planted with pollinator-friendly vegetation: a benefit to agriculture, clean energy, bees and birds.

To achieve this, many solar projects are now integrating a vegetative management plan that features a mix of low-growing and shade tolerant, pollinator friendly plants throughout the array.

Pollinator-Friendly Planting Tips

Considering installing solar at your farm, home or business and want to be sure it's friendly to pollinators? Here's how to get started:

* Step 1: Contact a pollinator vegetation expert (see list below)
* Step 2: Make sure consultants use the [VT Scorecard](https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Agriculture/Pollinator_Solar_Scorecard_FORM.pdf) in their planning and budget to ensure that the site can be considered pollinator-friendly
* Step 3: Work with [Vermont Suppliers for Native Plants and Seeds (PDF)](https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Agriculture/Vermont-Suppliers-for-Native-Plants-and-Seeds-2018-02-28.pdf) to source pollinator-friendly seed mixes as well as shrubs and trees for screening around solar arrays. Refer to the following lists to identify appropriate species for your project: [Vermont Bird and Pollinator-Friendly Perennials (PDF)](https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Agriculture/Vermont-Bird-and-Pollinator-Friendly-Perennials-2018-03-05.pdf) and [Vermont Bird and Pollinator-Friendly Shrubs (PDF)](https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Agriculture/Vermont-Bird-and-Pollinator-Friendly-Shrubs-2018-02-23.pdf).
* Step 4: Consider building in an annual assessment plan like this [Sample Pollinator Survey Tool](http://eanvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Sample-Pollinator-Survey-Bee-the-Change.pdf) (PDF)
* Step 5: Once you’ve finished your pollinator seeding/plantings, send your completed scorecard to info@revermont.org, and post it on your own website to say you’ve joined the Pollinator-Friendly Solar Initiative!
* Step 6: We encourage you to share your vegetative management plans as resource materials for others on this website.  Please send them to extweb@uvm.edu and we will share them below.

More Resources:

* [Plants for Bird-Friendly plants for your Solar Screening](http://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds?site=vt&nid=4166&site=vt&nid=4166) (Audubon)