



photo by Fresh Energy

Potential Benefits of Pollinator Friendly Solar in New York State

Pollinator Friendly Solar advances solar development and economic activity, protects natural resources, and supports local food and agriculture.

Advances Solar Development and Economic Activity

- Reduces operating and maintenance costs to solar developer, thereby improving financial returns of solar projects
- Reduces community or governmental opposition to solar array, thereby making permitting process less onerous
- Reduces issues of water runoff and water retention (due to deep-rooted native plants that retain water), thereby facilitating stormwater permitting for solar arrays
- Provides additional incentives for municipalities and counties to use government-owned land for solar arrays
- Advances opportunities for municipal and county governments to create community solar projects to provide locally-generated renewable energy and CCA's that use that energy as part of energy supply contract
- By increasing advantages of community solar, also increase opportunities for low and moderate-income families to reduce electricity costs
- Create jobs and economic activity due to expansion of both solar arrays, native plant and honey making industries, as well as increased agricultural productivity
- Provides additional incentive for municipalities and counties to use landfills and brownfields for solar arrays

Protects Natural Resources

- Advances protection of pollinators by scaling up the land area devoted to pollinator habitats
- Provides soil regeneration for area covered by pollinator habitat due to regenerative capacity of deep-rooted native plants
- Advances protection of pollinators by transferring the 20 to 25 lifetime cost of planting and maintaining a solar pollinator habitat to the private sector, i.e. the solar developer
- Invigorates native plant industry by increasing demand for, awareness of and general exposure to native plants

Supports Local Food and Agriculture*

- Improves agricultural production on land located near pollinator habitats
- To the extent that pollinator habitats on farmland are used to harvest native plant seeds and produce honey, farmers will receive increased revenues and might be able to retain agricultural land tax exemption for land used for solar arrays

**NYS currently has seven million acres in agricultural production across 35,500 farms: solar arrays sited on ag or ag-adjacent land would maximize these benefits*