

Solar Site Pollinator Habitat Planning & Assessment Form

Use for site and seed mix planning/designing. Pollinator planting area shall always be managed to prevent and eliminate invasive and noxious plant species.



Images courtesy
Bee the Change and Fresh-Energy

1. Planned percent of site with flowering plant species

(select one)

- 1-15 percent (5 points)
- 16-30 percent (10 points)
- 31-45 percent (15 points)
- 46-60 percent (20 points)

2. Flowering plant seed mix to be used

(select all that apply)

Includes appropriate plant species for the region or local habitat (5 points)

Amount of seed to be planted (lbs/acre) is determined according to seed provider's recommended application rate and/or planting density for planted species in the target area (5 points)

Includes only native* plant species (15 points)

* Native species local to the site are preferred; otherwise species native to Vermont are encouraged.

3. Planned cover diversity within the ground cover area

(# of flowering plant species that will constitute >2 percent cover each; select one)

- 1-9 species (5 points)
- 10-19 species (10 points)
- 20 or more species (15 points)

4. Seasons that will have at least 3 blooming species with >2 percent cover each (select all that apply)

- Spring (10 points)
- Early summer (5 points)
- Late summer (5 points)
- Fall (5 points)

5. Observed pollinator nesting habitat within 0.25 miles

(select all that apply)

Bare ground with undisturbed, and/or well-drained soil (2 points)

Forest edge habitat that includes flowering shrubs and young trees (2 points)

Cavity nesting sites (e.g., dead trees, snags, fallen logs, shrubs, plants with pithy-stemmed twigs such as sumac, rose, raspberry) (2 points)

6. Planned management practices (select all that apply)

Mowing occurs only after August 15, and before spring each year (5 points)

Detailed establishment & management plan (10 points)

Detailed monitoring plan (10 points)

Creation of nesting habitat features (e.g. boxes, tunnels) (0.2 points per feature)

features: x = points

7. Pesticide risk (select if applicable)

Planned on-site insecticide use on plants (includes prior application to seeds/plants) (-40 points)

8. Planned vegetation buffer adjacent to the solar site (select all that apply)

At least 50% of buffer area will be planted with flowering plant species (5 points)

At least 50% of buffer area will be planted with native plant species (5 points)

Buffer will be a minimum of 30 feet wide (10 points)

Developer:

Project Location:

Project Size:

Target Seeding Date:

**Pollinator-Friendly
Score:**

Meets "Pollinator-friendly Solar" Standard: 70-84

Provides Excellent Habitat: >85

The practices called for in this form are subordinate to any requirements of applicable State permits, agency rule or guidance. All solar projects must comply with applicable Public Service Board and Agency of Natural Resources permit conditions, even if those conditions conflict with practices favored by this assessment form.

This form was produced by the Pollinator-Friendly Solar Initiative of Vermont:

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