

SHAFTSBURY SOLAR PROJECT

MAY 2023



- Our proposed 20 megawatt (MW) solar project is located on portions of four contiguous parcels situated west of U.S. Route 7 and south of Holy Smoke Road (the “Project”). The solar array will occupy approximately 83 of the 182 acres with the balance remaining in its present natural condition.
- The Project will produce approximately 33,500 MW hours of clean renewable energy per year, further reducing fossil fuel generation on the New England electric grid. The Project will also help meet the region’s electric demand and carbon reduction goals.

PROJECT BENEFITS TO SHAFTSBURY AND VERMONT

- **Economic Benefits** – The Project will create ~\$30 million of direct and indirect economic benefits in Vermont over the life of the Project, including \$5.3 million of state and local property taxes, as reported by Synapse Energy & Economics.
- **Good Neighbor Projects** – Shaftsbury Solar is working with the Town to identify project(s) to assist with funding. On our other solar projects, we have funded fire department improvements, science and educational programs and wildlife habitat improvements. Ideas for Shaftsbury include electric vehicle charging stations and upgrades to the local skating rink. Shaftsbury Solar has also proposed upgrading a segment of the older water line serving North Bennington.
- **Native Groundcover** – To increase habitat for pollinators (e.g., bees and butterflies), a variety of native flowers and grasses will be planted within the Project site. Additional consideration is being given for the potential of sheep grazing and the planting of specialty crops such as saffron.
- **Forest Conservation** – Shaftsbury Solar has proposed conservation of 67 acres of forest on the Project site.

OTHER PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS

- **Landscaping** – The Project layout and supplemental landscaping plan have been carefully designed to minimize visibility and soften the appearance of the Project from nearby residences and users of Holy Smoke Road and U.S. Route 7. Our design includes new berms and extensive landscape screening planting over 200 mature evergreen trees, over 100 deciduous trees and nearly 500 dogwood and ninebark shrubs along Holy Smoke Road and the northeast portion of the Project site.
- **Stormwater Management & Grading** – The Project layout will include several new stormwater features to ensure runoff is managed under Vermont’s stormwater regulations. Very limited site grading will be needed.
- **Roadway Access** – Our design includes a temporary exit off U.S. Route 7 for larger vehicles such as tractor trailers. Traditional sized vehicles will access the property from the portion of Holy Smoke Road between the property and East Road. We are working with town officials on usage restrictions for the remaining portion of Holy Smoke Road.
- **Electrical Infrastructure** – No offsite electrical infrastructure is required as the Project will interconnect to the existing onsite 46 kV electrical transmission line.
- **Project Decommissioning** – Vermont requires that a decommissioning fund is established prior to construction to ensure that at the end of the Project’s useful life all equipment is removed and the site is fully restored.
- **Protecting Prime Agricultural Soils (“PAS”)** – Shaftsbury Solar will follow all state guidelines to protect prime agricultural soils including stockpiling any PAS soils that are removed for return to their prior location. Leaving the soil fallow during the Project life will allow for a strong nutrient recharge.

