

Alliant Energy's

Onion River Solar Project

January 2023 update



The 150-megawatt Onion River Solar Project located in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, is part of Alliant Energy's Clean Energy Blueprint, a strategic roadmap to cost-effectively accelerate our transition to renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions. Once complete, the project will positively impact the environment and generate enough energy to power around 40,000 homes.

Construction update

This month we expect to complete civil sitework. That means we'll have built all driveways and access roads and prepared all the array fields for installation. We've already installed roughly 40% of the electrical cable and have just begun to install piles, the metal columns that anchor solar array structures to the ground. As we place the piles, crews will start to install the racking system that will support the solar panels.

We're also underway constructing fencing around the site. In addition to functionality, this will provide a natural-looking aesthetic.



We've begun work on the utility substation that will connect the solar arrays to the main electric grid. The substation will ensure the clean energy these panels generate is ready and available at the flip of a switch.

We'll continue to make exciting progress throughout the winter and expect the Onion River Solar Project to be operational this summer.



Creating a pollinator-friendly habitat

Supporting a diverse, pollinator-friendly habitat that builds soil nutrients and strengthens local wildlife is a key goal of our Clean Energy Blueprint. At this site, like others around the state, we plant native grass and seed mixes throughout and around the solar arrays to create a healthy environment.

The Onion River Solar Project site is utilizing a specially selected, DNR-approved mix of grass and seed varieties to promote a safe and healthy environment. These varieties of native vegetation are great for attracting pollinators such as bees, butterflies, moths and other beneficial wildlife populations.

Pollinator-friendly vegetation has been proven to prevent soil erosion, improve water quality, add benefit to high-value crops and decrease operating and maintenance costs. Additionally, a recent study by Yale University found that pollinator-friendly habitats can result in “higher energy output, from panel efficiency gains attributed to the cooler microclimate created by perennial plantings.” All these benefits help create a more sustainable, reliable and environmentally friendly energy future.

To learn more about Alliant Energy’s efforts to support pollinators, visit AlliantEnergy.com and keyword search, “pollinator.”

Find out what’s next

We’ll share additional updates, photos and details for the Onion River Solar Project throughout the construction process online at alliantenergy.com/onionriversolar.

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