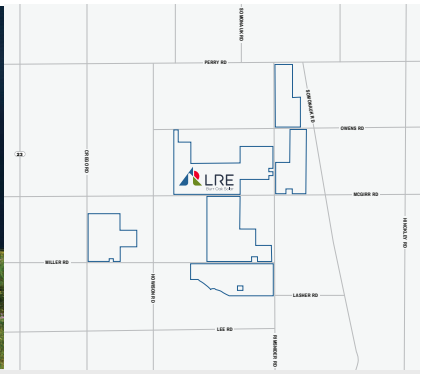
LRE Burr Oak Solar

Leeward Renewable Energy (LRE), a leading U.S. renewable energy producer dedicated to sustainably powering the future, is developing the Burr Oak Solar project in DeKalb County, Illinois.



LOCATION

Leeward Renewable Energy is completing development of a up to 300-megawatt (MW) solar energy facility in DeKalb County, Illinois. The project will be located on approximately 2,000 acres of privately-owned land and is expected to operate for 30+ years.

WHY HERE?

Solar power produces emission-free electricity that will help Illinois meet demand for renewable energy. The site for the Burr Oak Solar project was carefully selected due to the growing need for new energy generation, the proximity to existing high-voltage transmission lines near the property, the flat topography of the land, and the interest of private-landowners who have chosen to participate in the project.

MORE RESOURCES FOR DEKALB COUNTY

Through its 30-year lifespan, the Burr Oak Solar project will generate more than $47M in new tax revenue for DeKalb County. The increased revenue will support local schools, the fire department and broader county priorities. Construction of the project alone will support an estimated more than 700 full-time jobs during construction, with every effort made to hire local workers. Another positive impact is the dollars spent in the community by workers during the construction phase.

PROPERTY VALUES

Numerous studies done by assessors, real estate groups, and industry experts all confirm that solar projects have little to no negative impact on property values. Solar projects are quiet neighbors and provide a passive use of the land that generates tax dollars for the community above and beyond what the land currently generates. Projects like Burr Oak Solar also have the potential to attract new businesses to the area who are looking for renewable energy. More importantly, this project guarantees the area won't be used for other allowed land uses such as manufacturing, warehousing or large-scale residential developments.

VIEWS

As we bring clean solar energy to DeKalb County, we're committed to balancing the project's engineering requirements with local input. Burr Oak Solar will remove only what is necessary to effectively build and maintain the facility. An evaluation of existing vegetation will include but will not be limited to local land development requirements, site layout/design, and the condition of existing vegetation, maintenance requirements, distance and size. The specific buffer and landscaping details for Burr Oak Solar have not been determined, however a site plan is being developed that will help preserve as much of the existing landscape as possible.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction of a solar project generally takes between 18-24 months depending on the size and complexity of the site. Construction covers several distinct phases, during which Burr Oak Solar must apply for, receive, and adhere to all necessary county and local zoning, building, electrical, and environmental permits. During construction, the most visible change to the nearby community will be a likely increase in truck traffic. Burr Oak Solar will submit a traffic impact study prior to construction and will incorporate road cleaning and traffic management as part of our construction planning.

ENVIRONMENT & SAFETY

We take our commitment to the environment and land stewardship seriously. Solar power generation produces no air pollution or greenhouse gases and has a positive, indirect effect by reducing the use of other energy sources. In addition, solar panel materials are enclosed behind strong tempered glass and the contents are solid (as opposed to liquid or vapor), so they do not mix with water or vaporize into the air, meaning there is no threat of chemicals releasing into the environment during normal use. Solar panels are extremely durable and are designed and tested to withstand hail, wind, and storms.

BENEFITS

Solar energy facilities bring numerous benefits to communities where they're located including:

- More than $47M in new tax revenue over the life of the project with little to no strain on local infrastructure.
- Renewable energy produced locally and used to meet regional energy demand, capable of powering more than 80,000 homes per year.
- 700+ direct and indirect full-time jobs created during construction.
- Once operational, the solar facility is a passive use of the land and will not generate substantive amounts of traffic, dust, odors, or other nuisances.
- Burr Oak Solar is committed to being a dedicated business partner and has a strong history of support for local organizations that positively impact the community.

LANDOWNER RIGHTS & BENEFICIAL USE

Solar energy facilities provide a temporary, low impact use of land. Siting a solar facility also supports a landowner's rights to make decisions on the use of their land, within reason and regulations. Land used for these projects is stabilized and seeded, allowing the land to regenerate and the soils to rest. LRE utilizes land sustainability practices at our projects, including efforts such as pollinator planting, on-site beehives, soil monitoring and in some cases sheep and cattle grazing. Finally, at the end of operations, equipment is removed, and the land restored to prior use.

CONTACT

If you have questions or feedback on Burr Oak Solar, email us at info@burroaksolar.com.