



# Solar Multi-Use Request for Information

For Greens Corners, Sandy Creek, Bald Mountain and West River Solar Facilities

October 2020

# Statement of Need

Boralex is developing large-scale solar projects in New York State, including in Washington County, Saratoga County and Jefferson County where we anticipate our four projects will occupy approximately 1,550 acres of land. On these lands, Boralex wishes to maintain agricultural activities that are locally compatible, environmentally responsible, and operationally viable, both logistically and financially. Boralex is interested in identifying what these activities might be, as well as potential partners who could engage in these activities.

# Background

Boralex is a Canadian renewable energy project developer, owner, and operator. For the past 15 years, we have been operating hydroelectric facilities in Washington County and have recently begun developing solar projects locally as well. To ensure that our

projects are designed with local insights and interests in mind, we engage with our project communities early and often. Boralex already has experience with multi-use at our solar farms in France where, working with local sheep farmers, we have sheep grazing under our panels. We would like to implement similarly mutually beneficial arrangements at our

As shown in Map 1, our Bald Mountain Solar project will be located in the Town of Greenwich in Washington County on approximately 180 acres of land, while our West River

projects here in New York.

Map 1: Washington County & Saratoga County project locations

The Hyde Collection

Haviand Cove Park

West River Solar

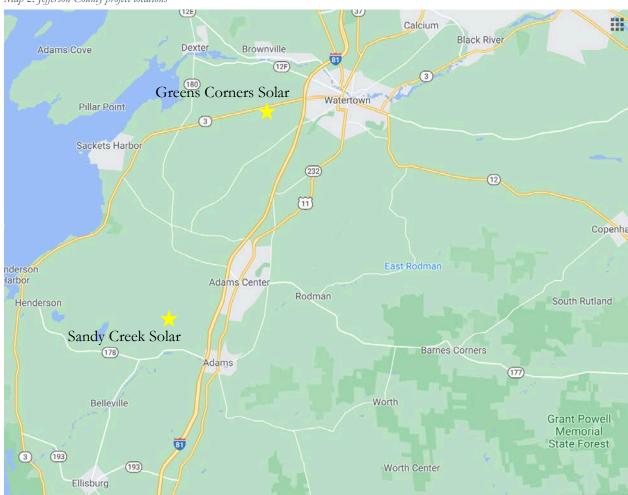
Argyle

South Argyle

Solar project is located in the Town of Moreau in Saratoga County on approximately 200 acres. To learn more about these two projects, visit www.boralex.com/projects/bald-mountain/ and www.boralex.com/projects/west-river/.

As shown in Map 2, our Sandy Creek Solar project is located on approximately 170 acres of land in the Towns of Adams and Ellisburg in Jefferson County, and our Greens Corners Solar project is located on approximately 1,000 acres of land in the Towns of Hounsfield and Watertown in Jefferson County. To learn more about these two projects, visit www.boralex.com/projects/greens-corners/ and www.boralex.com/projects/sandy-creek/.





# Information Requested

Boralex is seeking information about options for agricultural activities that can be conducted on its solar project sites, as well as information about suppliers (individuals and/or organizations) that might supply products and services for these activities, including conducting the agricultural activities themselves.

# Requirements & Parameters

Respondents are asked to abide by the following requirements and parameters when suggesting possible multi-use activities:

- activities cannot shade panels
- activities should enhance, or at least not degrade, soil health
- activities cannot damage glass solar panels or other equipment
- assume a five-year contract period. (If this timeframe is not suitable, please tell us what is and why.)
- do not include information of a confidential nature, such as sensitive personal data or proprietary information
- respondents agree that Boralex may use information supplied without restriction or limitation.

Refer to the Appendix for photos of what the solar panels and racking typically look like, as well as diagrams showing approximate equipment dimensions and spacing.

## **Submissions**

Please answer as many of the following questions as possible to help us learn about your suggested multi-use activity(ies) and supplier(s).

#### Multi-Use Activities

- 1. What activity(ies) do you think are suitable for these projects and why?
- 2. For each activity, please describe how that activity is done, by who, during what times of the year. Please make sure to include requirements for any equipment (e.g. fencing, vehicles) or other resources (e.g. fresh water supply, electricity supply, etc.) that are needed for this.
- 3. For each activity, what is the minimum acreage needed for it to be viable and what area(s) of the project it would be conducted on? (For example, only on open areas between panels, across entire project site including underneath the panels, etc.)
- 4. If more than one additional activity is being recommended to be done on a project, what combination and/or sequence of activities do you recommend to be conducted over the 5-year contract period?

# Suppliers

If you are a supplier of goods or services related to any of the described multi-use activities, please also answer as many of the following questions as possible.

- 1. What is your experience supplying goods and services for suggested multi-use activities, including performing the activities themselves?
- 2. Where are you based?
- 3. What is your primary work or business?
- 4. Please describe any other qualifications you feel are important for Boralex to understand.

Feel free to include any photographs, links to videos, or copies of documents (including promotional materials) that you think will help us better understand your suggestions, products, services and qualifications.

#### Due Date

Submissions should be sent by no later than 3pm on Thursday December 15, 2020.

We encourage responses to be submitted via the online form, however electronic submissions can also be sent by email to info.usa@boralex.com. Please use "Multi-Use RFI Submission" as the Subject of your email message.

# **Other Notes**

- you may make more than one submission;
- responses can be made for each project individually, or multiple projects together;
- Boralex makes no commitment to pursue any of the agricultural activity options suggested as part of this RFI, nor to follow up with, engage, or employ respondents or suggested suppliers as a result of this RFI;
- if you have any questions, please contact us at info.usa@boralex.com.

Thank you for your interest and participation in this RFI.

We look forward to hearing from you.

# Appendix – Solar Project Design

### Project Area

Boralex's solar projects are accessible from public roads. Each project has a network of access roads that can be driven on with most road-going vehicles.

Areas where solar panels and other electrical equipment are installed are enclosed by fencing.

#### Solar Panels & Racking

Solar panels are made of silicon covered in glass, surrounded by aluminum frames. Because they are covered in glass, they will break if hit or bumped into with enough force to bend the frame.

Rows of panels are mounted onto steel racks that are installed running north-south, meaning the rows of land between panels will also run north-south.

The following photographs show approximately what the installed panels and racking will look like.



https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2015/05/array-technologies-launches-new-single-axis-tracking-system/



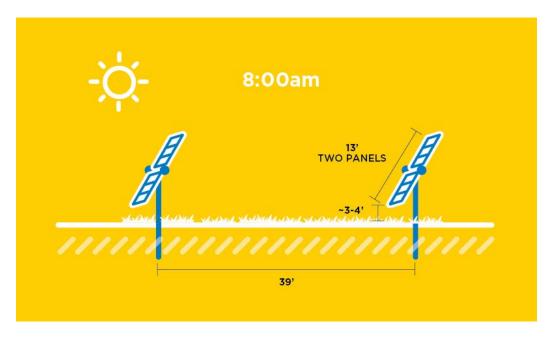
https://soltec.com/soltec-supplying-first-pv-power-plant-australia/

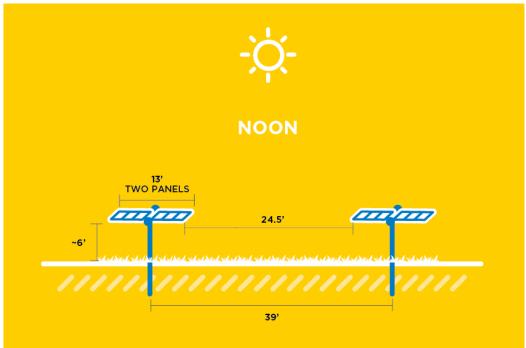


https://www.nrcm.org/programs/climate/clean-energy/solar-power-in-maine/

# Spacing

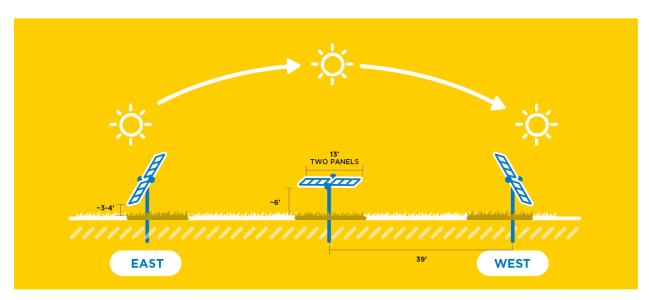
Boralex's typical point-to-point distance between the racks ("pitch") is approximately 39', however because we use racking systems that slowly tilt the panels through the day to follow the sun east-west across the sky, the distance between the panels will vary. In the morning and evening, the panel edges will be about 30' apart, while at noon (when the panels are tilted flat to face the sun at its apex) the distance between the panels reduces to about 24.5'. These two diagrams show this change:





# Shading

Because the panels follow the sun, this also means that the area under the panels is shaded more consistently, however plenty of indirect light still reaches this ground area for vegetation to grow.



Thank you for your interest.

# BORALEX