



Northern California / Oregon Pollinator-friendly solar scorecard

The entomologist-approved standard for what constitutes “beneficial to pollinators” within the managed landscape of a PV solar facility.

1. PERCENT OF PROPOSED SITE VEGETATION COVER TO BE DOMINATED BY POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY WILDFLOWERS

- 31-45 % +5 points
- 46-60 % +10 points
- 61+ % +15 points

Total points

Note: Projects may have “array” mixes and diverse open area/ border mixes; forb dominance should be averaged across the entire site. The dominance should be calculated from total numbers of forb seeds vs. grass seeds (from all seed mixes) to be planted.

2. PLANNED % OF SITE DOMINATED BY NATIVE SPECIES COVER

- 26-50% +5 points
- 51-75% +10 points
- 76-100% +15 points

Total points

3. PLANNED SPECIES DIVERSITY (total # of species in re-vegetation, including native grasses)

- 9-11 species +5 points
- 12-15 species +10 points
- 16 or more species +15 points

Total points

Note: exclude invasives from species totals.

4. PLANNED SEASONS WITH AT LEAST 3 BLOOMING SPECIES PRESENT (check all that apply)

- Spring (March-May) +5 points
- Summer (June-August) +5 points
- Fall (September-November) +5 points
- Winter (December-February) +5 points

Total points

Note: Check local resources for data on bloom seasons

5. ADDITIONAL HABITAT COMPONENTS WITHIN .25 MILES (check all that apply)

- Native bunch grasses, leaf litter, woody debris, bare ground +2 points
- Native trees/shrubs +2 points
- Clean, perennial water sources +2 points
- Created nesting feature(s) (i.e., native bee houses) +2 points

Total points

6. SITE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

- Detailed establishment and management plan developed with funding/ contract to implement. +15 points
- Signage legible from a distance of 40 feet or more stating "pollinator friendly solar habitat" (at least 1 every 20ac.). +5 points

Total points

7. RE-VEGETATION

- Seed is applied at 50 PLS (Pure Live Seed) per square foot +5 points
- 20% or more of the native species' seed has a local genetic origin within 175 miles of the site +5 points
- For sites located 5 miles or further east of the coastline, re-vegetation includes 1% native milkweed +10 points

Total points

8. PESTICIDE RISK

- Planned on-site insecticide use or use of plant material pre-treated with insecticides (excluding buildings/ electrical boxes, etc.) -40 points
- Perpetual bare ground under the panels due to ongoing herbicide treatment (beyond site preparations), no re-vegetation planned, or gravel installation -40 points
- Communication/registration with Local chemical applicators about need to prevent drift from adjacent areas +10 points

Total points

9. OUTREACH/EDUCATION

- Site is part of a study with a university, research lab, or conservation organization +5 points

Grand total

Provides Exceptional Habitat >85
Meets Pollinator Standards 70-84

Project Name:
Vegetation Consultant:
Project Location:
Total acres (array and open area):
Projected Seeding Date:

Note: Percent “cover” should be based on the percent of the ground surface that is covered by a vertical projection of foliage as viewed from above. Wildflowers in question 1 refer to “forbs” (flowering plants that are not woody or graminoids) and can include introduced clovers and other non-native, non-invasive species beneficial to pollinators.

