



# Solar Site Pollinator Habitat Assessment Form

For solar companies to claim pollinator/wildlife habitat benefits on solar sites

## 1. PERCENT OF SITE DOMINATED BY WILDFLOWERS

- 1-15 percent 10 points
- 16-30 percent 15 points
- 31-45 percent 20 points
- 46-60 percent 25 points
- 61+ percent 30 points

Total points

Note: Project may have "array" mixes and diverse border mixes; forb dominance should be averaged across the entire site. Forb dominance should exclude native ragweeds.

## 2. % OF SITE DOMINATED BY NATIVE SPECIES COVER

- 1-25% 5 points
- 26-50% 10 points
- 51-75% 15 points
- 76-100% 20 points

Total points

## 3. COVER DIVERSITY (# of plant species with >2% cover)

- 1-9 species 5 points
- 10-19 species 10 points
- 20-39 species 15 points
- > 40 species 20 points

Total points

Exclude invasives from species totals.

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

- Spring 10 points
- Summer 5 points
- Fall 5 points

Total points

See BWSR Pollinator Toolbox for Information about bloom season

## 5. AVAILABLE HABITAT COMPONENTS WITHIN .25 MILES (check/add all that apply)

- Native bunch grasses for nesting 5 points
- Trees and shrubs for nesting 5 points
- Clean, perennial water sources 5 points

Total points

Note: Measurements of percent "cover" should be based on "absolute cover" defined as the percent of the ground surface that is covered by a vertical projection of foliage as viewed from above. To measure cover diversity it is recommended to use plots, and/or transects in addition to meander searches for accurate measurements. Wildflowers in question 1 refer to "forb" which are flowering plants that are not woody, and are not gaminoids (grasses, sedges, rushes).

## 6. AVAILABLE HABITAT COMPONENTS ON-SITE (check/add all that apply)

- At least 2% milkweed cover 5 points
- At least 3% native shrub cover 5 points
- Detailed mgmt. plan developed 10 points  
(see example plan)
- 3 or more signs legible at twenty 5 points  
or more feet stating pollinator friendly habitat

Total points

## 7. INSECTICIDE RISK (% of project adjacent to insecticide use such as non-organic cropland, or on-site use)

- 1-25% -10 points
- 26-50% -15 points
- 51-75% -20 points
- 76-100% -25 points
- On-site use -30 points

Total points

This doesn't include herbicide being used for weed control

Grand Total

Provides Exceptional Habitat 85 TO 100  
Meets Pollinator Standards 70-84

Developer: NextEra Energy

Project Location: Marshall, MN

Project Size: 370 Acres

Target Seeding Date: October 10<sup>th</sup> 2016

Send completed forms to: [Dan.Shaw@state.mn.us](mailto:Dan.Shaw@state.mn.us)