

**FULL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM**  
**Part 3 - EVALUATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPACTS**

**Greene County has compared the impacts reasonably expected to result from the proposed Greene County Solar Array Project as outlined herein, including:**

- Considered the action as defined in subdivisions 617.2(b) and 617.3(g).
- Reviewed the FEAF, the criteria identified in 617.7(c)(1) and other supporting information to identify relevant areas of environmental concern.
- For the purpose of determining significant adverse impacts on the environment of those factors listed above, the long-term, short-term, direct, indirect and cumulative impacts, including simultaneous or subsequent actions, to the extent reasonable, as included in any long-range plan for the action, any action that is a result of the reviewed action or is dependent on the action were reviewed. 617.7(c)(2)
- The significance of any likely consequences were assessed in connection with the setting of the action, the likelihood of occurrence, duration, irreversibility, geographic scope, magnitude and the number of people affected as a consequence of the action. 617.7(c)(3)

**The following summarizes the review of the criteria provided in 617.7(c) as indicators of significant adverse impacts:**

**Air quality, ground or surface water quality or quantity, traffic or noise levels, solid waste production, erosion potential, flooding, leaching or drainage problems;**

Impacts to air quality may include dust and exhaust from equipment during construction, but these will be temporary in nature. The solar panels will not affect air quality during operations. During construction, a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit will be required for construction stormwater discharge, thus water quality will be protected from erosion and sedimentation during the construction period. The solar panels are mounted on poles over grassed surface and will not increase impervious surfaces by any substantive means. The appurtenances have a very small foot print accounting for 0.02 acres of land cover over a 9.7 acre site. The installation of solar panels will not increase traffic after construction. Thus, there is no significant impact for these criteria.

**Removal or destruction of large quantities of vegetation or fauna, interference with migration fish or wildlife, impacts to special habitats, impacts to threatened or endangered species, or any other impacts to natural resources;**

The installation of the solar panels will involve land clearing of approximately 3.48 acres and grading of over 9 acres. The trees on the site are not old growth forest and do not contain special habitat or support threatened or endangered species. The project site has been subject to surface mining in the past. While the project will involve land clearing, there is no significant impact to natural resources.

**Impairment of Critical Environmental Areas;**

There are no Critical Environmental Areas within the project area.

**Conflicts with currently adopted community plans and goals;**

The installation and operation of a solar field on County-owned land in the vicinity of County facilities is not in conflict with currently adopted community plans or goals.

**Impairment of important historical, archeological, or aesthetic resources or community character;**

The solar project involves installation of solar panels and appurtenances to connect the solar array to the existing electrical grid. The panels may be visible from public highways and publicly accessible structures. While seasonally visible, the panels are not high in profile and not reflective, thus the visual impact will be minimized.

There are no resources listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places within the project area, however, the area is considered sensitive for cultural resources and therefore the project has the potential to impact historic and/or archaeological resources. The installation of the posts to support the panels and a short section of buried utility line will not involve excavation per se and a determination of no impact on cultural resources has been secured from the State Historic Preservation Office.

**Major change in use or type of energy;**

The operation of the solar panels will generate energy to support County demands for power. The project results in a net energy gain from a renewable source of power and is a positive impact on the environment.

**Creation of a human health hazard;**

This project will not have a negative impact human health and will indirectly be positive with respect to air and water quality from a small reduction in reliance on traditional fossil fuels for power.

**Substantial change in use or intensity of use of land including agricultural land, open space or recreational resources;**

This project does not involve construction on lands utilized or supportive of agriculture, open space or recreational opportunities, therefore, there will be no substantial change in use or intensity of use of these resources resulting from the project.

**Encouraging a population increase;**

The project follows Smart Growth principals by providing infrastructure in a developed area and will not encourage a population increase.

**Creation of a material demand for other actions resulting in above consequences;**

The Greene County Solar Array project will not directly result in a demand for any other action that could result in negative consequences to the environment.

**Changes in two or more elements of the environment that combined have a substantial adverse impact on the environment;**

This project will not result in change in two or more elements of the environment that combined

have a substantial adverse impact on the environment. Rather, the primary purpose of this project is to provide renewable energy, which has a positive impact on the environment.

**Two or more related actions undertaken, funded or approved by an agency that combined have a significant effect on the environment.**

The solar project is being undertaken as a standalone project that is intended to have a positive impact on the environment.

**Greene County has reviewed the Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) and the criteria contained in 6 NYCRR §617.7 and has determined that the Greene County Solar Array Project will not have a significant impact on the environment.**