

Solar Site Pollinator Habitat Scorecard

For site and seed mix planning, designing, and assessment. Pollinator planting area shall always be managed to prevent and eliminate invasive species as defined in 6 V.S.A. chapter 217 § 5101(2). Scorecards must be renewed every three years or sooner. Standards below refer either to the site plan or an established site. The site area is consistent with the 'Limits of Disturbance' per Net Meter Rule 5.103.



Image courtesy: Fresh-Energy

1. Percent site's vegetative cover is flowering species

(select one)

- 1-15 percent (5 points)
- 16-30 percent (10 points)
- 31-45 percent (15 points)
- 46-60 percent (20 points)

2. Flowering perennial species to be used

(select all that apply)

- Includes species of Northern New England and adjacent New York provenance (5 points)
- Amount of seed to be planted (lbs/acre) is determined according to seed provider's recommended application rate and/or planting density for planted species in the target area (5 points)
- Includes only VT native or naturalized perennial species. (15 points) *Species native to the biophysical region preferred.*

3. Cover diversity within the ground cover area

(# of flowering plant species that constitute >2 percent cover each; select one)

- 1-9 species (5 points)
- 10-19 species (10 points)
- 20 or more species (15 points)

4. Seasons with at least 3 blooming species with >2 percent cover each (select all that apply)

- Spring (10 points)
- Early summer (5 points)
- Late summer (5 points)
- Fall (5 points)

5. Observed pollinator nesting habitat within 0.25 miles

(select all that apply)

- Bare ground patches one square foot or larger, with undisturbed and well-drained soil (2 points)
- Forest edge habitat that includes flowering shrubs and young trees (2 points)
- Cavity nesting sites (e.g., dead trees, snags, fallen logs, shrubs, plants with pithy-stemmed twigs such as sumac, rose, raspberry) (2 points)
- Creation of nesting habitat features (e.g. boxes, tunnels) (0.2 points per feature)

features: x = points

6. Pollinator management practices (select all that apply)

- Mowing occurs only after October 15, and before May 1 each year; mowing height is 5" or higher (5 points)
- Detailed establishment & management plan (10 points)
- Detailed plant & wildlife monitoring plan (10 points)

7. Pesticide risk (select if applicable)

- On-site insecticide use on plants (includes prior application to seeds/plants.) (-40 points)

8. Vegetation buffer adjacent to the solar site (select all that apply)

- At least 50% of buffer area vegetative cover planted with flowering plant species (5 points)
- At least 50% of buffer area vegetative cover planted with VT native or naturalized shrub species (5 points)
Species native to the biophysical region preferred.
- Buffer at least 30 feet wide (10 points)

Site Owner or Designee:

Date:

Vegetation Consultant:

Seed Supplier:

Project Address:

Target Seeding Date:

New Retrofit Revised Scorecard Attached Seed Mix Specs or Management Plans

Project Size:

**Pollinator-Friendly
Score:**

Meets "Pollinator-friendly Solar" Standard: **70-84**

Provides Excellent Habitat: **>85**

The signator certifies that the solar site adheres to this Scorecard in accordance with 6 V.S.A. chapter 217. The practices called for in this Scorecard are subordinate to any requirements of applicable State permits, agency rule or guidance. All solar projects must comply with applicable Vermont Public Utility Commission and Agency of Natural Resources permit conditions, even if those conditions conflict with practices favored by this Scorecard.

Upload completed scorecard at: go.uvm.edu/pollinator-friendly-solar

This form was produced by the Pollinator-Friendly Solar Initiative of Vermont:

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