

Invenergy held a public meeting in Saline Township regarding the Washtenaw Solar project (Project) on August 18, 2025. Below are responses to various questions asked and themes raised by meeting attendees. In addition, interested members of the public can view Washtenaw Solar's application to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) [here](#) and the materials presented at the August 18 public meeting [here](#), including a transcript of the meeting.

PROJECT ATTRIBUTES AND IMPACTS

Does Invenergy want landowners to leave their property?

No. This project is made up of voluntary leases on private land. We would also like to extend invitations to all neighbors of the Project to consider a Participation Easement Agreement. For more information, please reach out via the [contact form on the project website](#).

Is Invenergy developing any other projects in the area?

Yes. Invenergy has developed 8 energy projects across Michigan to date, with a ninth currently under construction in nearby Macon Township. Invenergy is also considering additional development in Washtenaw County and across the state to meet the need for reliable, affordable electricity in Michigan.

How big is the Project?

Within the fence line, the project will encompass approximately 1,107.6 acres of private land. A site map is available in the Project's application and on the Washtenaw Solar website under [Exhibit A-1.1](#).

Is battery storage proposed at this Project?

No, Washtenaw Solar is only seeking MPSC approval for a 150-megawatt solar energy generation facility.

How will the Project impact property values?

Numerous third-party local and national studies consistently show that there are no negative impacts to property values when solar projects are located near residential, agricultural, or industrial properties. Below are a selection of those studies.

Additionally, solar projects benefit all local property owners by driving economic investment and increasing tax revenue. These funds can be utilized to help improve roads, schools, and community services, and in some cases even keep local taxes low – all of which factor into property values assessments.

- [Assessing property value impacts near utility-scale solar in the Midwestern United States](#) (2024)
 - "Using the difference-in-differences method, our results indicate that utility-scale solar projects increase nearby property values by roughly 0.5–2.0 %."
- [Study of residential market trends surrounding six utility-scale solar projects in Texas](#) (2023)
 - "A market trend analysis of various utility-scale solar projects across a diverse geographic study area in Texas showed no evidence of negative market impacts for nearby residential properties."
- [Utility-Scale Solar Farms and Agricultural Land Values](#) (2022)
 - "Results indicate that solar farms do not have direct positive or negative spillover effects on nearby agricultural land values."

We welcome anyone to share any other findings with us via our website [contact form](#).

SITING

Michigan is very cloudy, is any solar project in Michigan efficient?

Yes. Invenergy looks to site projects with a strong solar resource, market demand, existing energy infrastructure, and interested landowners. To reach this stage of development, a project must have the capacity to produce affordable, reliable electricity to serve Michigan's energy needs. In addition, advancements in technology, such as bifacial panels and single-axis tracking, have improved the efficiency of solar generation significantly, making Michigan a great place to harness solar energy.

Why not put the Project in more populated areas or on the roofs of places like data centers and grocery stores?

Invenergy looks to site projects with a strong solar resource, market demand, existing energy infrastructure, and interested landowners. Washtenaw County has all of those elements, which is why the Project is sited here.

Why doesn't Invenergy buy land instead of leasing it?

Invenergy works with individual landowners on a case-by-case basis to determine the best way for them to participate in the development of a renewable energy project. Most often that is in the form of easements and lease agreements, allowing landowners to continue farming the land at the end of the Project's duration and keep the land in the family for generations to come.

How much farmland will be displaced by the Project?

We recognize the immense value and respect landowners and community members have for their land. Every Invenergy solar project is built with the support of landowners who have freely and willingly chosen to participate in the project and have determined the best course of action for themselves, their land and their family. There are approximately 398 acres of land the USDA classifies as prime farmland located behind the proposed fence line for this project, representing less than one half of one percent of all prime farmland in Washtenaw County.

With robust, regionally appropriate vegetation planted and maintained at solar facilities, it gives the land an opportunity to rest and rejuvenate, while allowing farmers to diversify their incomes. At the end of the project's life, the panels are removed, the land is restored, and the landowner may continue to use their land as they choose – including a return to farming.

VISUALS AND SOUND

Will the Project require any permanent lighting?

As required for safety purposes by the National Electrical Safety Code, the Project substation will have lighting, including at the front access gate and the controls. Light will be used for safety and security purposes only, implement DarkSky International principles, point downward where possible, and utilize motion sensors where possible. No permanent lighting is installed in the array areas or on the modules, trackers, or inverters.

Has a sound study been performed for the Project?

Yes. The results are available in the Project's application and on the Washtenaw Solar website under [Exhibit A-1.7](#). Sound from the Project at neighboring residences is below the statutory limit established by Michigan law of 55 dB, which is similar to the sound of a dishwasher. In most cases, the sound level will be far below this limit.

Will Invenergy conduct post-construction sound monitoring?

Washtenaw Solar is legally required to abide by the MPSC's limits on sound levels at nearby residences and has engaged outside experts to ensure the project meets those limits. Within the first year of commercial operations, sound measurements will be conducted between late fall and early spring. This timeframe is targeted because it's generally the quietest time of year.

During operation, Washtenaw Solar will respond to any noise complaints promptly and is committed to resolution. More details on Washtenaw Solar's commitment to being a quiet neighbor can be found in our Post-Construction Sound Monitoring Protocol, included in our application as [Exhibit A-1.7](#).

WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENT

What sort of fencing will be used? Will it impact wildlife?

We install fencing on our projects for the safety of our employees, neighbors, and equipment. Around the arrays of panels, the planned fencing is a 7-foot-tall galvanized woven wire fence—commonly used around paddocks or fields. Around the electrical substation, the planned fencing is a 7-foot-tall chain link security fence with an additional one-foot-high barbed wire topping, as required by the National Electric Safety Code (NESC). Barbed wire is not proposed on any fencing except around the substation, as required by the NESC.

We complete numerous studies and site our projects responsibly to minimize impacts on wildlife. Therefore, we do not anticipate local wildlife to be impacted by the Project fencing. We plan to work with our customers and state agencies if any accommodations to the fencing are deemed necessary.

Will the Project negatively impact wildlife, including birds and insects?

Invenergy prides itself on upholding responsible development practices. We strive to minimize our impacts to wildlife and natural resources, and our efforts start from the very beginning of the life cycle of a project. We follow guidance from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other expert stakeholders to avoid and minimize potential impacts to the natural environment. We do not expect the Project to negatively impact wildlife around the site.

With proper planning, solar farms can enhance local ecological services by naturalizing areas around solar farms, which can improve wildlife habitat. In addition, using renewable energy has overwhelming net benefits to air quality and water resources, leading to a healthier environment.

Will glare from the solar panels impact wildlife?

Solar panels are designed to absorb the sun's rays and not reflect them. The surface of solar panels have an anti-glare coating to capture and retain as much of the solar spectrum as possible. We do not expect any impact from glare on wildlife.

CONSTRUCTION

Will the construction of the Project have traffic impacts?

Truck traffic does increase during construction of a project. Vehicles during the construction of a solar project will generally weigh less than normal loads the community is used to seeing, like grain trucks, for the project area.

Before construction begins, we will establish a road use agreement with the County to maintain, repair and/or improve any roads used during construction and determine the appropriate routes for construction vehicles to use.

Will Invenergy repair damage to property resulting from construction?

Yes. Invenergy aims to be a good neighbor and partner throughout a project's life, including construction, and will work to remedy any issues as they arise. Damage to things like drain tile systems will be repaired and/or replaced to maintain at least equivalent drainage by a vendor selected by the landowner at Washtenaw Solar's sole cost and expense.

Will installation of the piles create structural impacts?

No. Installation of piles does not impact nearby properties or facilities structurally.

WATER USAGE

Will the Project utilize the County drain system?

During construction, any drainage systems that are installed will join existing systems, with outlets either connected or adjacent. While Washtenaw Solar will install updated drain tile systems, this work is planned to ensure existing systems continue to function at flow levels consistent with current levels. In consultation with the Office of the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner, it has been determined that the Project will not require any new connections to the county drain system.

Will any stormwater retention basins be required for the Project?

Final stormwater retention needs will depend on the Project's ultimate design, which will include a stormwater management plan. The Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office has not currently identified a need for stormwater retention basins in its initial reviews of the Project. We expect to need minimal to no stormwater retention basins for Washtenaw Solar.

Will the Project negatively impact drainage or cause flooding?

No. Drainage levels will be equal to or below levels when the land was used historically for purely agricultural uses.

Will the Project impact water quality?

No. The Project does not use any water and will not affect water quality.

Will the Project result in leaching into the water supply?

No. Modern commercial solar panels do not pose a danger to the environment and human health. In the rare event that panels are damaged, they are designed to stay intact and do not leach harmful materials. In addition, Invenergy follows safety procedures to ensure all panels are compliant with the EPA's Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) testing protocol, which categorizes them as non-hazardous. This test assesses if hazardous materials like arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, selenium and more are present, and if they pose a leaching threat if the material being tested were to degrade over time.

PROJECT VEGETATION

How will the Project be maintained? Will it get overgrown?

Invenergy is one of the first solar developers and operators in the U.S. with a dedicated vegetation management team, and we are committed to implementing comprehensive, project-specific vegetation plans for every solar site that we build. Once the project is operational, routine vegetation management actions will occur to ensure the safe, efficient, and reliable operations of the solar facility. That includes mowing and targeted control of invasive species and noxious weeds.

Will the vegetation from the Project introduce any invasive species?

No. The vegetation planted under and around the solar panels will be specific to this project and regionally appropriate. It will provide weed competition, prevent surface erosion, improve stormwater controls, and promote healthy topsoil resources.

What is vegetative screening?

Vegetative screening is the planting of native and naturalized trees and shrubs around a project. This helps reduce visual impact of the Project for neighbors and allows the project to blend in with the natural surroundings. Washtenaw Solar will work with eligible neighbors to determine the use of vegetative screening closer to operation.

PANELS

Can glare from the solar panels impact daily activities?

Solar panels are designed to absorb the sun's rays and not reflect them. Solar panels have an anti-glare coating on the surface to capture and retain as much of the solar spectrum as possible.

Will the solar panels have hazardous materials?

No. Solar panels are made of glass, silicon, aluminum, copper, and other common materials. Solar panels are safe to touch, attach to your home or install in your neighborhood. The racks that hold solar panels and wiring that transmit electricity are made from common metals like aluminum, steel, and copper. In addition, Invenergy follows safety procedures to ensure all panels are compliant with the EPA's TCLP testing, which categorizes them as non-hazardous.

Where are the solar panels made?

It is too early to say from where the panels for Washtenaw Solar will be procured. Invenergy works with several partners to procure panels, including our own advanced solar panel manufacturing facility, Illuminate USA, located in Pataskala, Ohio and dedicated to producing high-quality solar panels for the US market.

POLICY AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Did Invenergy lobby for PA 233? Where is lobbying information available?

Invenergy, like many companies, tracks legislation that impacts our business, including PA 233. Invenergy did not register a position on the bill; however, the clean energy industry broadly supported the passage of PA 233 to give solar and wind energy projects the same regulatory review opportunities as other energy generation proposals in Michigan, such as natural gas and coal. Lobbying information is publicly available via the Michigan Department of State's Transparency Network, [linked here](#).

Who will get notice of the MPSC proceedings?

Washtenaw Solar will provide notice of the opportunity to comment on the application as prescribed by the MPSC. The notice will be published in the Sun-Times News before the Pre-Hearing for the Project. We will also send the notice of opportunity to comment by U.S. mail to postal addressees within one mile of the facilities, including to those addressees outside Saline Township.

Will this Project be expanded after MPSC approval?

No. Projects approved by the MPSC must seek MPSC approval to expand their footprint. The Project submitted to the MPSC represents the maximum extents. However, Invenergy does hold solar easement agreements with landowners not participating in Washtenaw Solar elsewhere in Saline Township and the surrounding area and may propose a separate project utilizing those agreements in the future. Any future project would have to be permitted separately from Washtenaw Solar.

DECOMMISSIONING

Will Washtenaw Solar provide funds to decommission the Project?

Yes. Invenergy has submitted a decommissioning plan for the Project. The decommissioning plan includes putting aside bonds to ensure funding even if there are changes in project ownership. Please see [Exhibits A-13.1](#), [A-13.2](#), and [A-13.3](#) in the Washtenaw Solar application for more information.

How much of the Project ends up in a landfill?

Solar panels and equipment are easy to disassemble and recycle. By weight, more than 80% of what goes into photovoltaic panels is silicon, glass and aluminum: common and easy-to-recycle materials. The industry is continuing to advance recycling practices; by the time Washtenaw Solar reaches decommissioning, it's likely that even more will be recyclable or repurposed.