

Beneficial Practices for Establishment and Maintenance of Vegetation at Utility-Scale Solar Sites



1. Adherence to principles of EPA's Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)¹. "IVM is not a single vegetation management tool but rather a combination of management approaches, including:

- Site Assessment,
- Control,
- Evaluation, and
- Maintenance

Each IVM program is designed around individual goals, needs, and resources in the context of a specific environment or setting."

2. Establish baseline vegetation management goals and objectives for all project sites:

- Avoid soil erosion and sedimentation runoff by enhancing soil stabilization by establishing and maintaining regional-appropriate vegetation cover for the life of the project.
- Where regionally and project site appropriate, plant perennial vegetation seed mixes.
- Consider integration of native seed mixes where feasible and consistent with minimizing soil erosion.
- Minimize introduction of noxious and invasive weeds.
- Strive to increase vegetative diversity of the site.
- Where appropriate and economically feasible, reduce mechanical and manual vegetation control to increase worker safety and increase long-term efficacy, including reduction in chemical applications.
- Maintain vegetation to mitigate fire risk.

3. If regionally and site-specific appropriate, it can be beneficial to prepare a Vegetation Management Plan that outlines the activities and adaptive management strategies to achieve the goals and objectives and ensure successful establishment of vegetation at the project site.

- Use a qualified professional to oversee the Vegetation Management Plan processes during the initial vegetation establishment period.
- Implement site-appropriate, proven adaptive management strategies, as necessary, to ensure all objectives are met.



¹ EPA. 2021. Benefits of Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) on Rights-of-Way | US EPA.