

# Industry Led Utility-Scale Solar Siting Principles



1. Evaluate and map landscape characteristics within the project area and adjacent properties including local zoning, comprehensive plans, access to transmission interconnection and capacity availability, topography, site access (e.g., road), land use, environmental landscape (e.g. high-quality natural communities, wetlands, floodplains or karst), previously documented archaeological and cultural resources, and high-quality natural communities as documented by state and federal agencies (e.g., federally or state protected wildlife habitat, USDA conservation reserve enhancement program lands, protected or priority lands identified by state or federal agencies).
2. Prioritize siting and designing facilities on previously disturbed lands, such as areas maintained through mowing, grazing or farming practices, brownfields, or managed timber lands.
3. In many areas of the U.S. siting utility-scale solar only on disturbed lands is not feasible due to site constraints including but not limited to interconnection and zoning constraints. In these cases, design and site project infrastructure in ways that minimize impacts to identified environmental resources and limit fragmentation of large contiguous environmental landscape features (e.g., large contiguous native prairie, natural forests, and/ or river corridors).
  - a. Consider maintaining existing buffers or, where appropriate, establishing buffers and incorporating design principles that include wildlife passages throughout the site where feasible (e.g., fence breaks for wildlife corridors) to allow safe passage for wildlife.
4. Identify design and erosion control measures that minimize soil erosion within the project area that minimizes sedimentation of adjacent aquatic resources.
5. Collaborate with appropriate stakeholders when appropriate during project development.

