COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY SOLAR PERSPECTIVES OF SOLAR NEIGHBORS

III.

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Instructions

This survey is seeking to understand your perceptions and experience with a large-scale solar project built near your home. Large-scale solar describes a large parcel of land with rows of ground mounted solar panels.

You may live near two or more large-scale solar projects. When answering the questions below please answer based on your experience with the completed solar project shown on the map included with your survey invitation.

1.	How familiar are you with the large-scale solar project shown on the map?	
	I see it nearly every day.	
	I see it occasionally.	
	I know it exists, but rarely see it.	
	I didn't even know it existed [SKIP TO QUESTION 27 TOP OF PAGE 7]	

2. Overall, which of the following best describes your current attitude about the solar project shown on the map?

Very negative	Negative	Neither positive nor negative	Positive	Very positive

3. Now, thinking specifically about the solar energy project that is shown on the map, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Overall, the solar energy project	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
improves the quality of life in our community.					
improves the quality of life <u>for me</u> .					
pays its fair share of local taxes.					
provides revenues for landowners.					
has created or exacerbated community conflict.					
conflicts with local interests and priorities.					
increases American energy independence.					
helps limit climate change.					

4. Thinking about the solar project shown on the map, what effect do you think it has had on...

	Increased	Had no effect on	Decreased	Don't know
nearby residential property values?				
job opportunities for local residents?				

5. Thinking about the solar project shown on the map, what effect do you think it has had on...

	Greatly worsened	Worsened	Neither improved nor worsened	Improved	Greatly improved	Don't know		
local schools?								
roads in your community?								
services provided by the local government?								
the local economy in the <u>short-term</u> ?								
the local economy in the long-term?								
opportunities for outdoor recreation (hiking, hunting, etc.)?								
the beauty/aesthetics of the landscape?								
the health of the natural environment in your community?								
the health of the natural environment globally?								
social or economic inequities in <u>your</u> community?								
What did you anticipate would happen to your electric bill as a result of the solar project? I expected my electric bill to								
Increase Stay t	he same		ecrease		No expectat	ion		

7. The solar project has...

6.

Had no impact on my electric bill Increased my electric bill Decreased my electric bill

8. Now we want to switch gears a little and ask you about other priorities in your community.

8a. Thinking beyond energy, which of the following do you think <u>should be</u> priorities for your local government leaders?			8b. In your opinion, to what extent has this project hindered or helped these priorities?					
	Yes No			No impact	Helped	Don't know		
Economic development								
Public school quality								
Managing population growth or loss								
Environmental sustainability								
Road maintenance and transportation services								
Providing public services (e.g., garbage/ recycling)								
Helping advance state-level priorities								

9. Thinking about all the energy infrastructure in your community (power plants, transmission lines, oil or gas wells, coal mines, etc.), do you think your community...

	More than its fair share	About its fair share	Less than its fair share
hosted more or less than its fair share of energy infrastructure prior to the solar project being built?			
<u>currently</u> hosts more or less than its fair share of energy infrastructure <u>now with the solar project built</u> ?			

10. Thinking beyond energy infrastructure do you think your community hosts more or less than its fair share of...

			More th fair sł		bout its air share	Less than its fair share
	"desirable" land-uses.]		
	"undesirable" land-uses.]		
11.	As a result of the solar project, the lowest-income mer	nhers	of my com	munity are		
	Better off The same		Worse off	intentity area		n't know
12.	As a result of the solar project, the <u>highest</u> -income me	mber	s of my co	mmunity are	<u>)</u>	
	Better off The same		Worse off		Dor	n't know
12	The overall size of the project is					
13.	Too big		Just right			't know
			Just fight			
14.	To what extent do you agree or disagree with the follow under and around the solar panels.	ving st	atement a	bout the lan	dscaping,	/groundcove
	Stro disa	ongly agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree		Strongly agree
	The landscaping improves the aesthetics of the site.					
	The landscaping enhances the ecosystem / habitat of the site.					
15.	Do you like the way these elements of the solar project	t look	?			
	Solar panels Yes No					
	Electric substation Yes No					
	Power lines Yes No					
40			<i>c</i> 1		0	
16.	If you selected "No" for any of the above, what specific	ally d	o you find	unattractive		

17. If <u>another project</u> were to be sited in my community, I would prefer it to...

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
integrate animal grazing or crop production among the solar panels (a.k.a. "agrivoltaic")					
be set back farther from neighboring homes					
overall be smaller in size					

18.	When did you first learn about the solar energy project on the map?	
	Prior to construction [CONTINUE TO QUESTION 19 BELOW]	┝
	When construction began [SKIP TO QUESTION 27 TOP OF PAGE 7]	
	After the solar project began operation [SKIP TO QUESTION 27 TOP OF PAGE 7]	
	Don't Know [SKIP TO QUESTION 27 TOP OF PAGE 7]	

19. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the solar project planning
process associated with the solar project shown on the map?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I had adequate opportunities to participate in public meetings or other parts of the planning process.					
I felt encouraged to take part in the planning process.					
My concerns about the solar project were addressed before it was approved.					
I had the ability to influence decisions made.					
I was provided with enough information on the solar project before it was approved.					
Now that the solar project is operational, I receive enough information about it.					
The solar developer seemed to go the "extra mile" in listening to and engaging with the local community.					
The solar developer did <u>not</u> keep the promises they made during the planning process.					
Government officials' decisions about the solar project were in the best interest of our community					
The planning process associated with this solar project was fair.					

20. Were there groups that organized in support or opposition of the solar development in your community? Check all that apply:

	□ No groups organized in Support □ Yes, groups organized in Opposition □ Yes, groups organized in Opposition		Don't know
21.	Were you active in the permitting and planning process for the solar project in any	of the fol	lowing ways?
		Yes	No
	Attended public meetings organized by state or local government		
	Attended rallies or events organized by any other group		
	Spoke at a meeting		
	Wrote a letter to a newspaper		
	Contributed to a webpage, blog or social media		
	Donated to groups active on the issue		
	Signed a petition or other documents		
	Wrote a letter to government officials or agencies		
	Put up a yard/window sign		
	If you answered "No" to <u>all</u> of the above, SKIP TO QUESTION 27 at the TOP of PAGE 7.		

- 22. Were your actions generally supportive of or opposed to the solar project?
 - Supportive

Neither supportive nor opposed

Opposed

23. Please mark how your participation in the planning process changed your own attitudes, if at all.

	Became more negative	Stayed the same	Became more positive	I don't know
My attitudes towards solar energy in general				
My attitude for this project				
My relationships with my neighbors				

24. Please mark how your participation in the planning process changed your trust in local government officials, if at all.

	My trust in them stayed the same	My trust in them decreased	I don't know
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25. To the best of your knowledge, did any of the following change because of community participation in the planning process?

	Yes	No
The setback distance (e.g., from panels to the nearest building or property line)		
The overall footprint of the project (e.g., number of acres)		
Project aesthetics (e.g., fencing, landscaping, power lines, layout of panels)		
The location of the project within the community		
Agriculture was integrated with the solar array (e.g., animal grazing or crops grow among panels, a.k.a. "agrivoltaic")		
A community subscription or ownership program was added so that residents could buy power from the solar project		
Additional compensation was given to neighbors who live near the solar project		
The developer agreed to pay additional funds for community-wide benefits (e.g., roads, schools, broadband internet, etc.)		
Other (please describe)		

26. Which <u>one</u> of the following best describes the way members of the public were engaged in <u>decisions</u> <u>about the solar project</u>?

No engagement				High engagement
Most of the public were unaware	Public was just kept informed	Public provided input	Public recommended decisions	Public made decisions

27. In your opinion, which is the <u>most appropriate way</u> to engage members of the public in decisions about solar energy projects proposed in their community?

No engagement				High engagement
Most of the public need not be aware	Public should just be kept informed	Public should provide input	Public should recommend decisions	Public should make decisions

28. Regardless of whether or not you participated in the planning process for the project, if <u>another solar</u> <u>project</u> is proposed in your community, to what extent would you support or oppose requiring the following changes to the planning process?

Aore one-on-one communication with the leveloper throughout the entire process. Aore opportunities for local residents to			
participate in the planning process.			
Nore detailed visual renderings or displays of the project.			
A third-party advocate to help inform esidents about technical details and nervene in decision making.			
Dpportunities for continued participation and feedback on the project after completion.			
State government should have greater lecision-making power.			
Solar energy project siting approvals should be decided through a public referendum or rote.			
Other Idea (please specify below)			

29. If another solar project were to be sited in your community, how important would it be to you that it...

	Not important at all	Of little importance	Of average importance	Very important	Absolutely essential
be owned by local companies compared to non-local companies.					
be owned by not-for-profit entities.					
hire unionized workers.					
hire local employees.					
purchase materials from local businesses.					
purchase from minority-owned businesses.					
utilize U.Smade solar equipment.					

30. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
The developer should pay fair market value to those who want to move rather than live near the solar project.					
All residents adjacent to solar projects should be paid.					
Everyone within sight of the solar projects should receive a credit on their electric bill.					
Local residents should be able to invest in and share the profits of solar projects built in their community.					
The power from future solar projects should be used in my community instead of another community.					

31. For each type of land below, please rate how appropriate you think it is for large-scale solar development.

	Solar definitely does not belong	Probably does not belong	Neither belongs nor does not belong	Probably belongs	Solar definitely belongs	Don't know
Former landfills						
Former industrial sites						
Local-, state- or federally-owned lands						
Unproductive farmland						
Productive farmland						
Forest lands						
Near retiring coal plants or mines						

32. To what extent do you trust each of the following entities to provide accurate information about energy projects?

	No trust at all	A little	Mostly	Trust very much	Don't know
Community organizations (e.g. churches, non-profits, etc.)					
News reporters					
University faculty/staff					
Your local electric utility company					
Nonprofit organizations dedicated to energy issues					
Energy developers					
Local government officials					
State government officials					
Federal government officials					
People who live near existing energy projects					

33. How strongly do you support or oppose development of the following types of energy installations in or <u>near your community</u>?

	Strongly oppose	Oppose	Neither support nor oppose	Support	Strongly support
Additional large-scale solar projects					
Solar on rooftops of homes or businesses					
Large-scale wind project					
Nuclear power plant					
Natural gas power plant					
Oil or gas pipelines					
Oil or gas wells					

Finally, we have just a few questions about you.

34. Did you receive this survey at your primary residence?

	Yes		No
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35. Do you own or rent your home?

Own	Rent
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36. How long have you lived in this community?______ years.

37. Are you aware of any other large scale solar projects being planned or developed in your area?

Yes		No
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38. Have you or your immediate family ever received money from any large-scale solar project? If so, which of the following best describes the payment?
No, we have not received money [SKIP TO QUESTION 40 BELOW] •

Yes, sold land for a solar project

Yes, lease or have a time-limited easement for a solar project

Yes, receive(d) compensation as a neighbor to a solar project

Yes, am or was employed by the solar industry

39. Was the compensation you or your immediate family member received associated with the project shown on the map or for another project? [Select all that apply]

l		For the	project	on th	e map
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For another project

40. Do you have rooftop or ground mounted solar panels at your residence?

Yes	No

41. What is the name of the company you pay your electric bill to?____

42. Do you subscribe to a program with your electric utility to get your power from renewable sources?

No)
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43. In what year were you born? _____

Yes

44. Which of the following best describes your racial or ethnic group? (check all that apply)

		White		Black or African American
		American Indian or Alaskan Native		Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
		Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish		Asian
		Don't know		
		Some other race or ethnicity [please specify]:		
45.	Wha	t is your gender?		
		Male		Female
		Something else		Prefer not to say
46.	Wha	t is the highest level of education you have comp	leted	
		High school (with or without diploma)		Some college (no degree)
		Associates or bachelors degree		Master's, Doctorate or Professional Degree
47.	Whic	h of the following best describes your current en	nploy	ment status?
		Employed Full-time		Homemaker/manage your home
		Employed Part-time		Unemployed and looking for work
		Retired		Unemployed and not looking for work
		Something else [please specify]:		
48.	Whic	h of the following categories best describes your t	otal a	nnual household income before taxes for 2022?

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Less than \$25,000	\$100,000 - \$149,999
\$25,000 - \$49,999	\$150,000 - \$199,999
\$50,000 - \$74,999	\$200,000 - \$249,999
\$75,000 - \$99,999	\$250,000 or more
Don't know	

49. As a small token of thanks, I'd be happy to send you the results of this study. How would you like to receive the research results from this survey?

U.S. Mail
Email. My email address is:
Neither. No need to send me the results.

Thanks again for completing this survey!

If you have any additional thoughts about large scale solar energy projects, please share them here.

ID: XXXX This ID number is used so that we don't bother you again once you return the survey. Your survey answers will remain completely anonymous. See project information sheet for more details.