lightsource bp

WILDFLOWER SOLAR FARM

Sacramento County, California

Artist rendering of Wildflower Solar

www.lightsourcebp.com/wildflower

16.5MWDC
CAPACITY

2,600
HOMES POWERED
in equivalence, annually

$20M
PRIVATE INVESTMENT
by Lightsource bp and our partners

21,850MT
ABATED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
equivalent to taking 4,600 fuel burning cars off the road

200+
TREES & BUSHES PLANTED
along West 6th street

75
LOCAL JOBS
created during construction

A pollinator friendly solar farm that's part of SMUD's Neighborhood SolarShares program

The 16.5 megawatt Wildflower Solar farm is expected to generate 31,000 megawatt hours of solar power annually – or enough to power 2,600 US homes, while reducing CO2 emissions by 21,850 metric tons each year.

bp

PLANNED ECOSYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS

Lightsource bp's model is to develop, own and operate our solar farms throughout their full life cycle. With solar farms having a life span of decades, it's important to us to be stewards of the land and long-term partners of local communities. We work with various stakeholders when building our solar farms to make sure our projects benefit the local community – not just by generating clean electricity that improves air quality, but by improving the ecosystem as well. We do our best to create solar farms that local communities can be proud of.

West 6th Street Improvements

We work hard to make sure our solar farms have minimal impact on their local surroundings, and this includes preserving as much of the existing vegetation as possible, as well as shielding them from residents' views. We often use natural screening techniques such as planting hedgerows, shrubs and trees. For Wildflower Solar, we have created a detailed planting plan, which will focus on screening the installation from view using vegetation and increasing the biodiversity values on the site.

Improvements along West 6th Street include installation of a berm and the planting of over 200 native water-wise trees and shrubs. In areas that have been disturbed by construction, we'll be applying a carefully selected seed mix as well.

Pollinator friendly solar – fostering biodiversity and boosting crop yields for the community

Lightsource bp creates customized long-term land and environmental management plans for solar farms that aim to maintain, as well as develop, plant and wildlife habitats to provide a net gain for local biodiversity. The plan for Wildflower Solar is to create a pollinator friendly solar farm, designed in collaboration with ecology experts to restore and conserve pollinator habitat.

Here in California as well as around the world, habitat loss and climate change have caused pollinator populations to decline. Over 85% of the world's flowering plants, including more than two-thirds of the world's crop species, are dependent on pollinators, so declining populations have detrimental effects on food systems worldwide. Researchers at the Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory have found that stable pollinator populations facilitated by pollinator-friendly solar farms allowed nearby agricultural land to be pollinated and, ultimately, boosted crop yields.

PROJECT INFORMATION

CONSTRUCTION INNOVATIONS

The project is being constructed by Construction Innovations, one of the largest locally based US manufacturers of specialized electrical systems, with the support of local subcontractors. The project will employ more than 75 on-site construction team members from the local community during peak construction, in addition to supporting full time manufacturing jobs within Construction Innovations' Sacramento facility. Founded in Sacramento in 2011, Construction Innovations has provided the electrical systems needed to power over 6% of all solar capacity nationwide.

If you have any questions or concerns – or if you would like to visit the project site, please contact Jim or Jeff at Construction Innovations.

Construction Innovations Superintendent

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lightsource bp

Lightsource bp is a global market leader in the development, financing and long-term management of large-scale solar projects. We are a 50:50 joint venture with bp, working together to help drive the world's transition to low carbon energy through competitively priced and sustainable electricity.

Lightsource bp in the US is headquartered in San Francisco with development offices in Denver, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Houston.

Our dedicated project manager for Wildflower Solar is Sanchit.

Lightsource bp Project Manager

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W 6th Street Work Information

Road improvements are scheduled to begin on 10/15/20 and be completed by 11/4/20.

- Improvements will include shoulder-widening, creation of the site entrance and paving the west side of the street.
- Traffic will be restricted to 1 lane Monday through Friday from 7am-3:30pm. All lanes will be open outside of these hours.
- Traffic control measures will be in effect during work hours.
- Work will occur on the west side of the street.

FAQ

How safe is a solar farm?

A solar project is about as safe as a facility can be. There are no air emissions from the solar farm. There are no chemicals. No trucks will be coming and going on a daily basis once construction is complete. The power will leave the solar project on lines just like the power lines in your neighborhood.

What about reflected sunlight?

The more sunlight a solar panel absorbs, the more electricity it can produce. Solar panels are thus designed to absorb light, and only reflect a small amount of the sunlight that hits them as compared to most other everyday objects. For example, solar panels reflect significantly less light than flat water.

Can the land used by a solar farm be redeveloped in the future?

The posts on which the panels are mounted take up a small percentage of the land area, with the majority of the site being grassland. At the end of the project the installation will be dismantled, removed and recycled without harming the land – we make sure that the land is restored to its original state.

How will traffic flow be managed?

Once the solar farm is in place it requires very little maintenance and approximately monthly visits in regular cars or 4x4s would cause no traffic disruption. While the solar farm is being constructed, a traffic management plan will be put in place.

How do solar installations affect health?

Solar is a passive technology which doesn't produce any harmful by-products. In fact, solar energy replaces polluting energy generated by fossil fuels, improving the health of people and the environment they live in. All electrical equipment is designed to NEC code compliant with local jurisdictions and relevant equipment certified to UL.

How are the panels kept clean?

Generally, rainfall helps to keep the panels free of dust and dirt. Several times a year, the panels will be thoroughly cleaned using specialized equipment, to make sure the installation is in the best possible condition.

Who is paying for the installation of the solar system?

Lightsource bp and our project investors have fully funded the project with private capital, an estimated $20 million of private investment into energy infrastructure for California.