



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1) WHERE DOES THE POWER GO?

- a. The power from Buckheart Solar will be delivered into the local Illinois electrical grid, helping to diversify the state's energy portfolio. Power generated by the project will be used both locally and transmitted to where it is needed based on demand. Think of solar energy like other crops – such as corn, wheat, and dairy that are currently harvested in your community. While some of those resources stay local, many are shipped outside your community but provide valuable income and jobs.

2) Will a solar project in my community lower my utility bills?

- a. Solar provides long-term price protection to customers in Illinois. Because there is no fuel, solar power is sold to utilities at long-term, fixed prices that are often below the cost of fossil fuel power. Today, with solar equipment price declines of approximately 90% over the last 10 years, solar is usually the lowest cost option for new electrical utilities.

3) How will solar arrays impact wildlife in the area?

- a. Impacts to local wildlife are expected to be minimal. Environmental experts have been assessing the project footprint by conducting site-specific studies to understand and mitigate potential impacts on wildlife. The project will comply with all state and federal regulations associated with wildlife including requirements of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Small local wildlife will be able to come and go through wildlife-friendly fencing, including rabbits and other small mammals as well as turtles and other small reptiles. Additionally, the project will take into consideration the inclusion of wildlife corridors that would allow for large species of wildlife to pass through the project area.

4) Do ground-mounted solar PV arrays negatively impact property values?

- a. In examining property values in states across the U.S., recent studies show that living in proximity to a solar farm does not deter the sales of agricultural or residential land. According to the Solar Energy Industries Associations (SEIA), large-scale solar arrays often have no measurable impact on the value of adjacent properties.

5) Are there health risks from the electric and magnetic fields (EMF) from solar panels?

- a. Solar Energy produces no emissions, waste, odor, or byproducts. The extremely low-frequency EMF from PV arrays and transmission lines is the same as the EMF people are exposed to from household electrical appliances and wiring in buildings.

6) How will the project impact farmland and local agriculture?

- a. Solar development and traditional agriculture can co-exist side by side, and increasingly are found together. Responsible solar development can provide benefits to agriculture and ecosystems by improving soil health, retaining water, nurturing native species, and supporting native pollinators which support local food production. In addition, solar farms help farmers and landowners diversify their income by providing a reliable, drought-resistant revenue stream. This steady income helps families pass down land to future generations regardless of commodity prices. Additionally, at the end of its useful life the project will be decommissioned, and the land will be available for all future potential uses, including traditional agriculture.

7) What happens when it is cloudy outside?

- a. On a cloudy day, solar panels still produce energy, just at a lower level than on a sunny day. Advanced tracking systems enable solar panels to follow the sun throughout the day and maximize the amount of electricity generated.

8) Will inclement weather damage the panels?

- a. Panels are capable of withstanding harsh weather elements such as hail, torrential rain, and strong winds. Studies, as well as actual catastrophic events such as hurricanes, have shown that solar farms are able to withstand harsh weather elements, including the cold, snowy weather of the Midwest.

9) Are solar panels toxic?

- a. No. Buckheart Solar will utilize monocrystalline silicon photovoltaics (PV) solar panels, which account for over 90% of solar PV panels installed today. These panels use a crystalline lattice of silicon atoms to convert sunlight into electricity. Silicon is the second-most abundant material on Earth (after oxygen) and the most common semiconductor material used in computer chips. It is non-toxic and does not pose a risk to public health or safety. When a project is decommissioned, panels can be recycled as well as be disposed of in landfills designated for this type of material.

10) What happens to solar panels at the end of their life?

- a. As part of the permitting process, Buckheart Solar will provide a detailed decommissioning plan. At the end of the project's useful life (30 years on average), panels can be removed and recycled or disposed of in a licensed landfill. Up to 90% of the materials used in panels, much of which is glass, are recyclable.

11) Are solar panels noisy?

- a. No, solar panels themselves are completely silent. Certain pieces of equipment on a solar farm, which includes inverters, transformers, and motors, do emit a small amount of sound during the day from sunrise to sunset. Transportation and maintenance equipment - including cars, trucks, lawnmowers, and string trimmers - are also a common source of noise on solar farms that most people are used to hearing elsewhere. The impact of this sound is negligible because the equipment is strategically placed within the solar layout and is typically distant from the property lines.

Buckheart Solar's commitment to being a good neighbor ensures that a noise study will be conducted, with measurements taken at a variety of locations around the project site. The project will operate in compliance with all applicable noise requirements.

STAY CONNECTED FOR THE LATEST INFO ON BUCKHEART SOLAR

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE **Blake Murphy**

EMAIL info@buckheartsolar.com PHONE **309-326-3057**

PROJECT ADDRESS **48 N. Main St. / Canton, IL 61520**

BUCKHEARTSOLAR.COM

