



Vegetation Management Plan Guidelines for Pollinator Friendly Solar Sites.

A Vegetation Management Plan (VMP), containing the items below, must be submitted when filling out the “Illinois Planned Habitat on Solar Sites Scorecard” or the “Illinois Established Pollinator Habitat on Solar Sites Scorecard”. The VMP is good for the life of the scorecard and must be renewed every time a new scorecard is submitted. Any amendments to the VMP between scorecard submittals, must be emailed to DNR.SolarPollinator@illinois.gov.

Project Description

1. Overview – General description of the project
 - a. Project, project developer, and owner name
 - b. Location
 - c. Size
 - d. Land use types on and adjacent to the site
 - e. Soil type according to USDA-NRCS Soil Survey
 - f. Topography
 - g. Hydrology
2. Map – showing layout of the site, and surrounding features (e.g. natural features, towns, roads)
3. Site Assessment - Impacts to the site and surrounding area including endangered and threatened species, existing vegetation, and water quality.
4. Vegetation establishment and management goals and objectives

Site Preparation*

1. Vegetation control – What is existing vegetation and how will it be removed/controlled?
 - a. Herbicide, type, adjuvant, and rates
2. Seed bed preparation – How will the soil be prepared to provide an acceptable seed bed before planting
3. Erosion control – What is being done to prevent erosion prior to vegetation establishment

Vegetation Establishment*

1. Seed mix species list for all mixes (common and scientific names)
2. Rates of pure live seed (PLS) for each species
3. Seeds per square foot for each species
4. Map showing the different seed mix locations
5. Method used to sow seed

6. Seed sowing dates
7. Erosion control – What is being done to prevent erosion during vegetation establishment
8. Cover crop species and rate used

Monitoring & Maintenance*

1. Detailed description of methods used to ensure vegetation establishment and both short-term and long-term maintenance of established vegetation.
2. Erosion control – What is being done to prevent erosion after vegetation establishment
3. Rate & timing of site inspections/monitoring
4. A management schedule outlining the different management practices used and their timing, frequency, and extent.
5. Herbicide, type, adjuvant, and rates
6. Detailed description of how vegetation and pollinator species will be protected from pesticide drift.

*more detailed information and recommendations can be found in the “Solar Site Pollinator Establishment Management Guidelines” on the IDNR’s Solar Site Pollinator Scorecard website.

For question, please email DNR.PollinatorSolar@illinois.gov