



Desert Sunlight Solar Farm

Desert Center, California, USA



Sumitomo Corporation of America

Owners:	NextEra Energy Resources GE Energy Financial Services Sumitomo Corporation of America
Developer/ Construction/ O&M:	First Solar
Size:	550MW
Status:	Under Construction
Type:	Ground-Mount
Power Output:	~160,00 average California homes
CO₂ Displacement:	~300,000 metric tons per year* (~60,000 cars off the road)

Overview

Desert Sunlight is a 550 megawatt (MW) photovoltaic (PV) solar farm in the Chuckwalla Valley in east Riverside County, California. The project is located on land managed by the Federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM), about six miles north of the community of Desert Center. The project will provide enough energy to serve the needs of about 160,000 average California homes, displacing approximately 300,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per year—the equivalent of taking about 60,000 cars off the road.

Construction on the project began in September 2011, and the facility is expected to be fully operational by 2015.

When completed, the Desert Sunlight Solar Farm will support California in its efforts toward providing one-third of its energy from renewable resources, while establishing Riverside County as a world leader in renewable energy.

Project Timeline

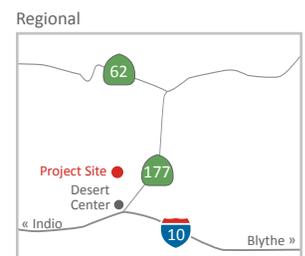
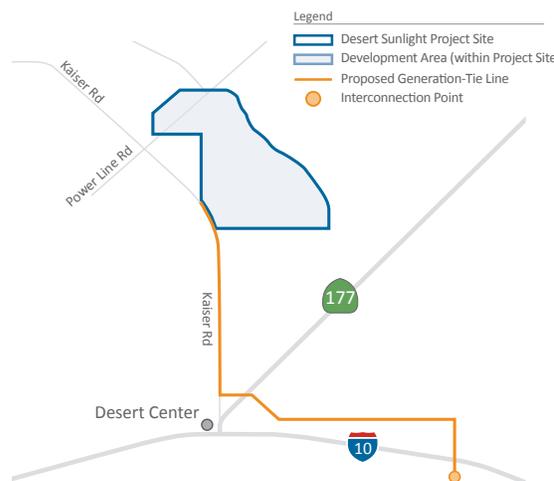


Project at a Glance

- 550MW of clean, renewable power
- Located on approximately 3,800 acres
- Approximately 440 jobs on average during construction
- No water used during electricity generation
- Minimal noise
- Low visual impact
- Panels recycled after useful lifespan

* CO₂ displacement based on Southern California Edison grid

Location



Community

Desert Sunlight Solar Farm is committed to being a pillar in the local community. We are dedicated to meeting the needs of the community by supporting local events and providing educational benefits for local schools and universities. The solar farm will also provide an indirect economic benefit to dozens of businesses in Riverside County, including engineering and design firms, construction subcontractors, suppliers, and service providers.

The site for Desert Sunlight was carefully chosen after an extensive review of its environmental objectives, solar resource, the availability of land near existing electrical transmission lines, and current land uses. The project site is located on land managed by the BLM designated within a solar energy study zone aimed at avoiding environmentally sensitive areas, also known as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs).

Community Benefits

- Establishes Riverside County as a world leader in renewable energy, helping reach state and local energy goals
- Generates wages and benefits from approximately 440 jobs, plus 15 ongoing monitoring and maintenance positions
- Provides approximately \$15 million in sales tax revenue to the County over a two to three year construction period and \$12 million in property tax revenue over the facility's lifespan
- Offers educational benefits for local schools and colleges, including on-site creation of the Solar Energy Learning Center

Environment

The Desert Sunlight Solar Farm is designed to provide the maximum amount of clean renewable energy while minimizing disruption to the project site and surrounding desert environment. The site is placed near existing transmission lines, requiring only the construction of new substation and generation interconnection transmission lines. The solar panels for Desert Sunlight are quiet and low profile, and will stand no higher than six feet above ground, minimizing visual impact. The panels operate with no air emissions, no waste, and no water usage. During construction, water use will be limited to sanitary purposes only.

Desert Sunlight supports Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar's orders to make developing renewable energy a top national priority. The project will also help the State meet the 2006 Global Warming Solutions Act's greenhouse gas reduction targets by 2020.



Questions or Comments

In keeping with our good neighbor policy, please contact us with your concerns at:

Media Ashley Hudgens (760) 776-1766
Community Relations Greg Johnson (760) 625-5519

