

DRAFT Illinois Solar Site Pollinator Habitat Planning Form

1. FLOWERING PLANT DIVERSITY IN SITE PERIMETER & BUFFER AREA (species with more than 1% cover)

- 5-10 flowering species +5 pts
- 10-15 flowering species +8 pts
- 16-20 flowering species +10 pts
- >20 flowering species +15 pts

Exclude invasive plant species from total

2. PLANT DIVERSITY IN ROWS & UNDER SOLAR ARRAY*

- 4-6 species +8 pts
- More than 7 species +10 pts

3. PERCENT OF SITE VEGETATION COVER TO BE DOMINATED BY WILDFLOWERS**

- 26- 50 % +5 pts
- 51-75 % +10 pts
- More than 75% +20 pts

Projects may have different species mixes under the solar array panels and in the perimeter. Flower cover should be averaged across the entire site. The percentage should be calculated from total numbers of forb seeds vs. grass seeds (from all seed mixes) planned for the site. Sites that are planned to be co-located with honeybee hives need to have 10% more flowers to receive points in a given category.

4. PERCENT OF SITE DOMINATED BY NATIVE PLANT SPECIES***

- 26- 50 % +5 pts
- 51-75 % +10 pts
- More than 75% +15 pts

5. PLANNED SEASONS WITH AT LEAST THREE BLOOMING FORB SPECIES PRESENT (check all that apply)

- Spring (April-May) +5 pts
- Summer (June-August) +5 pts
- Fall (September-October) +5 pts

6. HABITAT SITE PREPARATION PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION (check/add all that apply)

- Measures taken to control weeds prior to seeding +5 pts
- None -10 pts

7. AVAILABLE HABITAT COMPONENTS WITHIN 0.25 MILES (check/add all that apply)

- Native bunch grass for bee nesting +2 pt
- Native trees/shrubs for bee nesting +2pt
- Clean, perennial water sources +2 pt
- Created habitat nesting features +2 pts

8. SITE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

- Detailed establishment and management plan developed +10 pts
- Signage legible at forty or more feet stating pollinator friendly solar habitat +3 pts

9. SEEDS USED FOR WILDFLOWER AREAS

- Mixes are seeded using at least 40 seeds per square foot +5 pts
- All wildflower seeds are from a source within 150 miles of site +8 pts
- At least 2% milkweed cover to be established from seeds/plants +7 pts

10. INSECTICIDE RISK

- Planned on-site use of insecticide or pre-planting seed/plant treatment (excluding buildings/electrical boxes, etc) -40 pts
- Communication/registration with local chemical applicators or on www.fieldwatch.com to prevent drift +5 pts

Total Points: _____

Provides Exceptional Habitat Meets Pollinator Standards 85 and higher 70 – 84

Owner: _____

Vegetation Consultant: _____

Project Location: _____

Project Size: _____ **acres**

Final Seeding Date: _____

** For the array seeding, these can be a short-stature wildflower mix or clovers and other non-native species beneficial to pollinators. If clovers are used, these should be seeded in locations separate from the native wildflowers in the perimeter locations.*

***Wildflowers in question 3 refer to forbs which are flowering plants that are not woody, and are not grasses, sedges, etc.*

****Measurements of percent cover should be based on the percent of the ground surface covered by foliage as viewed from above. To measure cover diversity, it is recommended to use plots, and/or transects for accurate measurements.*

Refer to <http://extension.illinois.edu/wildflowers/default.cfm> or https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/il/plantsanimals/?cid=nrcs141p2_030715 or a local wildflower provider for advice on plants that are attractive to pollinators and will work in various Illinois settings.