

Grid-Scale Power

Community Engagement Plan

Moraine Solar Energy Center

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Corporate Headquarters
15445 Innovation Drive
San Diego, CA 92128
Tel: 858.521.3300
Email: info@edf-re.com

 **edf**
renewables
www.edf-re.com

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Introduction

New York's nation-leading climate legislation, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), includes a target of delivering 40% of the overall benefits from New York state's climate programs to disadvantaged communities. EDF Renewables (EDFR) will contribute to supporting this goal with its Moraine Solar Energy Center ready to contribute up to 94 MW of clean energy to New York State. The outcomes envisioned by this Community Engagement Plan offer a thoughtful approach to building community support while respectfully responding to interests.

EDFR recognizes and appreciates that local governments and stakeholders including landowners, play an important role in the process of evaluating and advancing large scale renewable siting in New York State, and in shaping developments that may be permitted in their communities. EDFR asserts responsibility for implementing the following Community Engagement Plan, that supports an open and inclusive public process and encourages feedback throughout the development and construction of the proposed project.

EDFR is committed to delivering benefits, both economic and environmental, to New York State disadvantaged communities, in alignment with the CLCPA and its stated prioritization of benefits and avoided social costs to disadvantaged communities, including low-income and environmental justice population participation in the benefit creation process. EDFR's efforts will also help build on and support NYSERDA's goal of supporting economic benefits within New York state for renewable energy projects. Due to the rural geographic location of many of EDFR's NYS solar projects, we apply and uphold NYSERDA's March 2023 disadvantaged community additional criteria of individual household threshold of 0-60% state median income level, as will be displayed in the following community engagement plan.

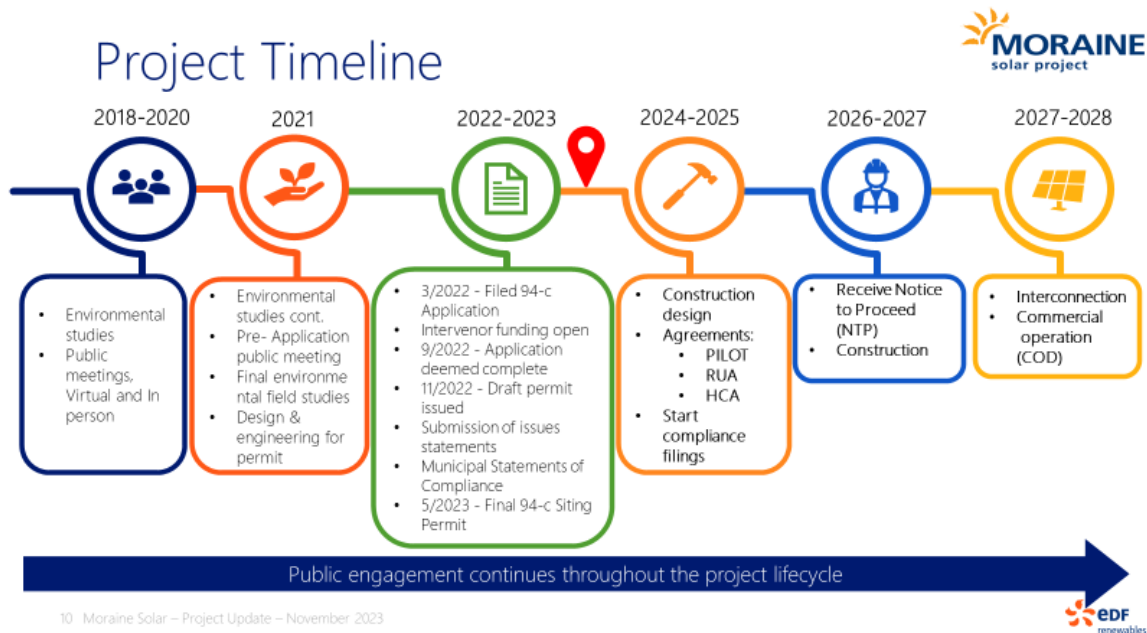
Every school district, town, and county where our projects are located have different needs and priorities. This Community Engagement Plan supports an open, inclusive, and transparent public engagement process. This includes regionally targeted education and information campaigns and encourages an open exchange with residents, businesses and community groups where our projects are located. Throughout the development, construction, and operational phases of the proposed facilities, EDFR's efforts to understand and embrace local priorities and interests will ensure that the benefits that EDFR provides to its host communities, economic or otherwise, are aligned with their needs.

The following plan incorporates an understanding of local interests and concerns, provides valuable public education opportunities, demonstrates a commitment to partnering with the elected officials in the host communities, and details a plan to respectfully respond to interests and prompt input from the public and affected agencies.

1. Local Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)

Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)	Town of Burns <u>Town of Burns Highway Department</u> <u>Allegany County Highway Department</u>
Taxing School District	Canaseraga Central School District
Local Elected Officials Name(s), Contact Information, and Tenure	Dianne Friener Supervisor Town of Burns Supervisor@townofburnsnny.com 607-545-6509

2. Community Outreach Strategies and Activities to Date



Overview of Commitment To Clean Energy Development: EDF Renewables recognizes that grid-scale solar projects are a relatively new concept throughout the state of New York, and is committed to educating local officials, landowners, neighbors, and the community at large about the technology, impacts, and benefits of solar energy. Through its efforts in following the Article 10 and Section 94-c permitting processes, EDFR has shown a commitment to engaging with its projects’ host community residents, neighbors, businesses, government leaders, and community groups to ensure an open exchange of ideas and transparency about the projects.

Often, a lack of information can lead create confusion about a project. By sharing project details, including mitigation measures and permitting constraints, more meaningful dialog can take place. More importantly, receiving input from the community early in the development cycle uncovers critical information that can be used to help craft a project in ways that help maximize support from the community in general. The exercise of sharing information, receiving, and responding to feedback helps to realize a project with the community in mind while seeking to improve overall project acceptance.

Actively participating in grid-scale solar energy development in the state of New York since 2017, EDFR has demonstrated a serious commitment to solar energy education through extensive educational and community outreach. Our efforts include open houses/public meetings, one-on-one meetings with neighbors, community groups, municipal leaders, conferences, written materials, podcasts, videos, webinars, newsletters, direct mail, newspaper ads, and more with the goal of maintaining open channels of communication and becoming a trusted member of the communities where its projects are located.

MORaine SOLAR COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Located in Western New York, Allegany County, the Moraine Community reflects that of several groups. Namely, the town of Burns sits along route 70, the major thoroughfare in the Southern Tier and Allegany Mountains, as well as surrounding the village of Canaseraga. Burns is agricultural and prioritizes its local hills and valleys, iconic to the local scenery. The Moraine Solar project touches one k-12 district, the Canaseraga Central School district. In addition, Moraine is near SUNY Geneseo, Alfred State and Alfred University, all which EDFR has established and will continue relations with.

Recognizing the deep historical attachment to the community that the town of Burns has, EDFR has worked with the town of Burns and cemetery association to preserve historic cemeteries and a jailhouse, one of the oldest in the state.

EDFR currently is constructing the Morris Ridge Solar Energy Center in nearby Livingston County (roughly 25 miles away), and thus has established itself as a trusted regional partner in the Moraine Solar community.

Moraine Solar Outreach to Date

EDF Renewables started developing the Moraine Solar Energy Center in 2018 upon acquiring the project's initial core landowners and Moraine Solar first met with the Burns Town Board Solar Committee in December of 2020 to present the project, share the potential site map, and other project information. Since then, Moraine has continued to development strong community relationships throughout the project.

Community Meetings Overview

- September 1, 2021: Public Information Meeting
- April 28, 2021: Public Information Meeting
- April 27, 2021: Public Information Meeting
- April 11, 2019: Town of Burns Open House Community Meeting
- December 5, 2018: Town of Burns Open House Community Meeting

Town Meetings Overview

- November 8, 2023: Town of Burns Board Update
- February 8, 2023: Town of Burns Board Update
- September 14, 2022: Town of Burns Board Update
- September 13, 2022: Project Review with Fire Marshal
- May 4, 2022: Town of Burns Board Update
- April 6, 2022: Town of Burns Board Update
- March 1, 2022: Town of Burns Board Update
- February 28, 2022: Town of Burns Board Update
- January 11, 2022: Town of Burns Consultation on Local Law
- October 26, 2021: Town of Burns Consultation Meeting
- September 28, 2021: Town Consult on Proposed Land Use Development
- August 17, 2021: Town Superintendent and Fire Department Meeting
- July 21, 2021: Town of Burns Presentation
- May 13, 2021: DD Town of Burns Board Presentation
- January 14, 2021: Town of Burns Presentation
- December 16, 2020: Town of Burns Presentation
- December 10, 2020: Town of Burns Board Update

As mentioned previously, the EDFR initiated outreach and coordination with the local community in 2018. Moraine Solar conducted an open-house style meeting in the Town of Burns on December 5, 2018, as well as on April 11, 2019. Following the transfer to Section 94-c, Moraine Solar hosted numerous public information meetings in accordance with 19 NYCRR §900-1.3(b). The first meetings were held on April 27 and April 28, 2021, and another was subsequently held on September 1, 2021. These meetings were held more than 60 days prior to Moraine Solar's anticipated application filing date. Written notice of the public meetings was provided to all residents located within one mile of the Facility Site, ORES, and the applicable members of the state legislature no sooner than 30 days and no later than 14 days prior to the meetings in accordance with the publication requirements of 19 NYCRR §900-1.3(b). Also, in accordance with the regulations, notification of the meetings was posted in The Spectator (official Town newspaper) and The Hornell PennySaver (free publication).

The purpose of the meetings was to educate the public about the proposed project, including the anticipated application date and information regarding the future availability of local agency account funds. Moraine Solar also provided information on topics of interest, such as information on solar photovoltaic technologies, environmental considerations for project development, details on the Section 94-c permit process, and how to contact the Applicant.

Historically, the Moraine Solar's public involvement program plan for the Article 10 process, as well as Exhibit 2, Overview and Public Involvement of the Office of Renewable Energy Siting 94c siting process, can be found on NYS Department of Public Service Document Matter Master. Please find relevant documentation for Moraine Solar at [NYS DPS-DMM: Matter Master](#)

EDF Renewables completed necessary permitting activities in 2021 and 2022 and received its determination of completeness from the Office of Renewable Energy Siting in May 2023, allowing for construction in late 2026-2027 and operations to begin by 2028.

During the operational phase of the project, relationships with the community are managed by EDFR's asset optimization team, local site manager, and land and community engagement team. The primary focus of their community relationships is educational and partnership opportunities, ensuring the project is operating safely, and maintaining the requirements of our permits (for example vegetative buffering for visual impact). Refresher trainings for first responders and emergency personnel are held as needed and opportunities for field trips or educational seminars are available for local students.

Overall, EDFR is committed to a thorough community engagement program, listening to neighbors, and providing the information and resources necessary to help inform them about solar energy and the Project, so the project and its benefits are successfully integrated into the community for years to come.

3. Direct Benefits to the Community

The project team at EDF Renewables and many community members are excited to see the project be realized, as it will provide many benefits for the community, including:

- More than \$300,000 in new revenues on an average annual basis for the town, county and school districts.
- More than \$20 million over the 20 years of operation to participating landowners.
- \$47,000 per year in residential electricity bill credits (for the first 10 years of operation). This amounts to roughly \$45 per household in the town of Burns.
- \$10,000 annual Share the Sun Fund community benefit fund (life of the project) to help support local organizations, in addition to any host community agreements or PILOT payments
- Other benefits including 130 union jobs during construction and operation, and opportunities for material supply and services and opportunities for the hospitality sector.
- \$2,000 annual scholarships to the Canaseraga School District with for students interested to pursuing a post-secondary program in the trades or has a renewable energy component, with the option for a second-year renewal for the recipients
- Some of the above-mentioned investments are anticipated to benefit disadvantaged communities in the Western New York/Southern Tier region as well as the 40.2% of households in the town of Burns that fall within the 0-60% state income level threshold for disadvantaged community criteria.

The EDFR solar project represents a significant investment in the local towns, county, and the state of New York. The project would rank among the largest, by investment, in the Town of Burns. The project also demonstrates alignment with the CLCPA, as well as this solicitation's stated prioritization of benefits, including job creation and support for disadvantaged communities. The project will help grow and support New York's burgeoning renewable energy supply chains and workforce.

In addition to the category of alignment with the CLCPA, investments in the community fall into three primary categories:

- *Job Creation*: Includes temporary construction jobs and long-term jobs for the life of the facility.
- *Contribution in Taxes and Revenues*: Includes income from PILOT's and/or Host Community Agreements, special district taxes, taxes on underlying land and agricultural exemption conversion penalties.

- *Direct Economic Benefits:* The initial spending on the construction and operation of the photovoltaic (PV) installation creates a second layer of impacts, referred to as “supply chain impacts” or “indirect impacts.” Indirect impacts during the construction period consist of the changes in inter-industry purchases resulting from the direct final demand changes and include construction spending on materials and PV equipment and other purchases of goods and offsite services. Focusing on local or in-state indirect benefits, we see the greatest impact in the hospitality, material supply, and construction services sectors.

Alignment with the CLCPA

The Moraine Solar project contributes to New York State’s goal of 70% renewable energy by 2030, through reducing emissions associated with power production by providing a renewable energy resource. EDFR commits to other goals of the CLCPA such as a Just Transition, by partnering with community organizations to offer localized benefits to the most vulnerable populations in project communities.

EDFR’s efforts to bring clean energy to New York are not only aligned with the goals of the CLCPA, but also with NYSERDA’s five core mission outcomes which are greenhouse gas emissions reductions, driving steady and reliable procurements of renewable energy, driving energy efficiency and building decarbonization, building New York’s clean energy economy, and aligning infrastructure, investment, and energy system planning to create a resilient and distributed energy system.

To do its part in addressing the environmental justice aspects of the CLCPA, Moraine Solar will be investing its communities for workforce development, education, household energy efficiency and by responding to local community needs. This will be addressed further in the document in the Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities section.

To ensure these benefits are integrated into project communities, EDFR believes in creating longstanding partnerships with organizations like local school districts and higher education institutions, BOCES, community groups like Veterans of Foreign Wars or Boys/Girls Scouts, food pantries, county and regional program partners like workforce development boards and NYSERDA Clean Energy Community Coordinators or Clean Energy Hubs.

Looking at the larger picture of upstate New York, EDFR’s developments will also have a positive impact on the cities and regions they sit between, including Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse, and Western New York/Allegany Mountain area each of which include significant disadvantaged communities. Through these projects, EDFR is helping to grow a connected and growing renewable energy supply chain in these cities, while developing a skilled local workforce and supporting New York’s nation-leading transition to a renewable energy future.

Economic Development/Local Job Creation: Moraine

Allegany county has an unemployment rate of 3.8% as of November 2023. The job creation from Moraine project construction will continue to provide contracted work to local workforces for a secured timeline. The Moraine Solar Energy Center is proposed to contribute over 6 million in direct payments, averaging more than \$300 thousand per year, to the town of Burns, Allegheny County and Canaseraga Central school districts in the first 20 years of operation. This value includes PILOT and/or Host Community Agreements, special district taxes, taxes on underlying land, and agricultural exemption conversion penalties.

More than 130 union jobs will be created at the peak of construction, and 2 full-time, high-paying jobs for its operating life. In addition, this will provide much needed training opportunities, setting individuals up for a career in one of the fastest growing industries of the future.

EDFR will make significant investments to workforce development in the Moraine Solar community, that will be discussed in greater detail in following sections.

Contributions to local Revenues and Direct Economic Benefits

While these sections will provide significant localized contributions for the Moraine Community, the contributions to local revenues will be discussed in the following section of this document, PILOTS. With many of the direct economic benefits listed above, the economic benefits section of the EDFR's response will covers the direct benefits in detail.

With a fervent commitment to project communities, EDF Renewables exceeds the base level expectations of benefits a project can bring to a community through listening and responding to needs in real time and bringing the following programs to our communities.

- Share the Sun Fund - \$10,000/ annually for the life of the Moraine Solar project will be given to local organizations. The winners are selected after review of their applications by a local review committee for a truly locally driven process
- \$2,000 Scholarships for students at Canaseraga school districts interested in renewable energy or the trades
- \$5,000 donation to the Cemetery Association in a direct response to the need for tree removal after a devastating storm.
- In person education and outreach events from arts festivals to environmental summits, to school homecomings and county fairs
- Partnerships with local unions such as IBEW, LiUNA and Operators
- Presentations, scholarships, and partnerships with renewable energy schools such as SUNY Geneseo and Alfred State
- Workforce Development offerings as an intro to solar with a virtual reality headset tour of a solar construction site and a two-part online training series with SUNY ESF



Community Partnerships and Donations



Cinderella League



Town of Burns Historic Preservation



Cemetery Association

2021-2022

- \$3,000 **Cinderella League** – Girls Softball
- \$2,000 Town of Burns Historical Jail Revitalization Study
- \$15,000 **Town of Burns Historic Preservation** fund
- \$2,000 2021 Scholarship – Canaseraga CSD
- \$2,000 2022 Scholarship – Canaseraga CSD

2023

- \$2,500 American Legion Post – Upgrades
- \$2,500 Essential Club Free Library – ADA compliant ramp
- \$5,000 **Cemetery Association** – Tree removal
- \$2,000 Scholarship – Canaseraga CSD
- \$1,000 Garwoods United Methodist Church – Upgrades
- \$1,000 American Legion Post – Upgrades, Women's Auxiliary
- On-going grant writer services for Lions Club

Please contact Drazen Gasic or Haylee Ferington with any community donation or partnership ideas!
Drazen.gasic@edf-re.com
Haylee.ferington@edf-re.com



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4. Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities

Recognizing most of the state’s utility scale renewable energy projects are located in rural areas, and thusly the majority of the project benefits should be directed into the communities most impacted by the development of renewable energy projects, EDFR maintains the NYSERDA March 2023 definition of Disadvantaged communities to adequately address rural poverty, wherein households that fall within the state level threshold are disadvantaged communities. In addition, recognizing regional impacts of any kind of development, EDFR works closely with county and regional organizations to create opportunities for nearby disadvantaged communities. EDFR further recognizes some of the biggest burdens are local funding opportunities, workforce development and household energy efficiency.

According to the March 2023, NYSERDA DAC map and additional criteria, the Moraine Solar project would be nearby to a DAC in Mount Morris. Additionally, in the town of Burns, 40.2% of households fall within the 0%-60% state income level threshold to qualify as a disadvantaged community member.

Local Funding Opportunities

Moraine Solar Energy Center is dedicating \$10,000 for the life of the project beginning at the start of construction for the project’s Share the Sun Fund community benefit Fund. Often, local nonprofits have a hard time finding funding such as local food pantries and serve the members of communities who are most in need of assistance. Winners of these funds are chosen by a local selection committee.

A scholarship of \$2,000 has been established at Canaseraga Central School District, and we will be working with county workforce organizations and homeowner organizations to implement programs for disadvantaged communities both in project communities and counties. The project will also provide an opportunity to source construction labor, materials, subcontractors, and vendors directly from this disadvantaged area.

Job Creation and Workforce Development

The Moraine Solar Energy Center will bring much-needed job opportunities not only to the host town, but also to neighboring disadvantaged communities. Construction jobs will offer prevailing wages, hands-on learning, and serve as a starting point to gain relevant knowledge and experience in the fast-growing energy industry. Full time operations jobs will pay an average of [16-19%](#) above the average state level, depending on the position.

There will be approximately 130 union jobs created at the peak of construction and 2 additional full-time, high paying operation jobs for the project's operating life. Tailoring to various job experience levels in the community, there will be jobs available such as laborers, technicians, electricians and construction workers. The Moraine Solar Energy Center will create opportunities in the energy sector, which is a growing field of work because of the state's rigorous renewable energy goals. From 2016 –2018, workforce growth in the energy industry was [8.9%](#) in New York State, which has positively contributed to growth for the economy. It is projected that in the next 10 years solar technician demand by [50%](#) in New York State. These jobs will provide much needed training opportunities, setting individuals up for a future career in an expanding industry.

While the direct contributions made by Moraine Road solar will focus on the projects host towns, school districts, and the county its proximity to Mount Morris will provide an opportunity to source hospitality, services, construction labor, and materials, subcontractors, and vendors from these recognized disadvantaged communities and community members.

EDF Renewables plans to promote workforce development to the disadvantaged communities and members of the Moraine area, by cultivating career pathways in the solar industry. First, EDFR has partnered with ExPR to offer a virtual reality headset tour of a solar construction field, all while different careers in the solar industry are discussed, as well as showing a finalized site with sheep grazing. EDFR will offer this virtual reality tour to students at local high school and community colleges to introduce students to a two-part solar training series with SUNY ESF. Part-one serves as a four-week online training through Coursera, while part two is an in-person training session with a professor from SUNY ESF as well as local union partners. This two-part training series will introduce participants (high school through continuing education) to a variety of careers and career pathways in the solar industry. EDFR will sponsor the cost of this program for participants and highlight our disadvantaged members to assist in the workforce leg of a Just Transition. EDF Renewables intends to distribute a flyer that highlights the opportunities to pursue a career in renewable energy and promotes the training opportunity as well. EDFR will partner with local workforce development organizations, schools or libraries to offer access to computers and Wi-Fi to assist with equity considerations.

Energy Efficiency/Carbon Reductions

In efforts to directly address several goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act at once, EDF Renewables will initiate an energy efficiency program for homeowners within the DAC income level threshold within the town of Burns. We seek to partner with the regional Clean Energy Hub, responsible for household level energy efficiency measures. Households and vendors would be selected by the Clean Energy Hub as a trusted community partner. Upon receipt of a NYSEDA Tier 1 award, Moraine Solar is committed to investing \$94,000 into this program for households in the town of Burns. Should all eligible and interested households be funded in the town of Burns, any remaining funds are to

be distributed in the nearest DAC, Mount Morris. EDFR is proud of this program, to directly assist one of the biggest individual energy burdens and challenges of the CLCPA, in bringing energy efficiency to disadvantaged households in rural New York.

Local Educational Opportunities—Moraine

The project will be able to provide well-paying jobs to locals who completed relevant educational programs. Alfred State and Alfred University, offer relevant courses and programs as just two of the many institutions in Western New York where students are learning skills which could propel them into a career in renewable energy, and perhaps the Moraine Solar Energy Center. EDFR is working with the Genesee Valley BOCES to offer presentations to students and further partnerships on field trips or studies.

5. Payments in Lieu of Taxes or Host Community Agreements

The Proposer has actively addressed Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) and Host Community Agreements in various public meetings, including those held by the Town Board of Burns and the Allegany County Industrial Development Agency (IDA). EDF Renewables initiated discussions with the Allegany County IDA on October 17th, 2019, followed by subsequent meetings on February 18th, 2021, and December 22nd, 2023. We are eager to engage in negotiations regarding these agreements with the Town, County, schools, and IDA. At present, Moraine Solar is collaborating with the Town of Burns to finalize the host community agreement. Once this agreement is completed, Moraine Solar will resume discussions with the County IDA to implement the PILOT by the end of 2024. EDFR is excited about the opportunity to generate new revenue streams for the Town, County, and school district, which could greatly benefit the community throughout the PILOT.

6. Local Interests/Concerns and Mitigation Efforts

In our over 35 years of renewable energy development experience in North America, EDFR has come to find, there are two main factors that contribute toward building community support and responding to opposition:

- Providing education about the facility – often, a lack of information can cause confusion about the project. By sharing project details including mitigation measures and permitting constraints, more meaningful dialog can take place.
- Receiving feedback from the community – more importantly, receiving input from the community early in the development cycle allows for critical information to be known that can help craft a project in way that helps maximize support from the community in general.

The exercise of sharing information, receiving and responding to feedback helps to realize a project with community in mind while seeking to improve overall project acceptance.

Below are specific examples indicating of how informing stakeholders and/or receiving feedback either influenced project decisions or helped build community support at the Moraine Solar Center:

Moraine Solar requested relief from Section 1 l(iii) in the Town of Burns Solar Energy Facility Regulation which requires the solar facility to maintain vegetation below 24-inches in height inside the solar field.

EDFR requested relief from this provision as it may inter alia impact on the Facility's ability to provide agricultural co-utilization options.

The integration of solar grazing and bee keeping at Moraine Solar Energy Center has the potential to create additional value/revenue streams from locally raised, grass-fed solar lamb and solar honey that could be produced at the solar facility and sold to consumers in New York State (NYS). EDF Renewables heard from many farmers across New York State, and locally in the town of Burns, who have an interest to graze sheep under solar panels confirming that solar grazing can be a real opportunity for Moraine Solar.

Communities also express an interest about how the project might benefit the local towns and schools, and its potential effect on their taxes. The Project through the PILOT and/or Host Community Agreement, special district taxes, taxes on underlying land, agricultural exemption conversion penalties is proposed to contribute more than \$6 million in direct payments to the Town of Burns, Allegany County and Canaseraga Central school district in the first 20 years of operation. In addition, if the Project is awarded a contract with NYSERDA, a \$500/MW payment will be made annually to offset residential electricity bills for the first ten years following commercial operation amounting to \$47,000 per year, providing around a \$45 relief per household in the Town of Burns on annual electricity bills.

EDFR believes their projects are a strong fit for NYSERDA and the local communities because they foster meaningful relationships that are built to last and be mutually beneficial.

7. Strategies to Mitigate Concerns Raised by the Public

Visual Impact Concerns

Neighboring landowners are often concerned with visual impacts on their homes resulting from large-scale solar projects. EDFR focuses on meaningful consultation with project neighbors, intended to foster long-lasting relationships with those living closest to its facilities, as any neighbor would. Often, neighbors abutting our facilities express an initial concern about the impact our facility may have on their viewshed or property value. Through multiple meetings that normally take place at the neighbor's home, EDFR finds common ground and works together to resolve issues by understanding how they view our project and providing them with more information.

Normally, most concerns are resolved by creating a trustworthy relationship and being available as needed, perhaps enhancing some of the setbacks being proposed and giving the neighbor some options on the type of visual buffering that will be integrated around the project perimeter. Sometimes, consultants from the EDFR team visit the neighbor's property and take photos of representative viewpoints to create visual models of what the project might look like. Normally, these visualizations are greatly appreciated and help create partnerships.

Concerns at Moraine Solar

- **Several concerns raised over potential chemical runoff from solar panels.** EDFR is proud to employ technologies that do not pollute the ground or waterways. Through state 94c permitting, the facility site could have increased groundwater filtration and retention and carbon sequestration.

- **Concerns regarding direct impacts from the project to local wetlands and indirect impacts to local waterbodies due to increased drainage.** Moraine Solar conducted a comprehensive delineation of all federal, State, and locally regulated wetlands and adjacent areas in the 1,603-acre Survey Area Pursuant to 19 NYCRR § 900-1.3(e),
- **Some concerns about the safe disposal or recycling of panels, or their chemical and metal components, at the time of decommissioning.** EDFR has entered into a two-year recycling agreement with SolarCycle for all panels. EDFR will seek to replicate this partnership in the future for continued sustainable reuse and recycling of solar panels. Moraine Solar will adhere to the state 94c permitting decommissioning guidelines.

General Education of Municipal Officials and Residents

EDF Renewables works across municipalities, the region, and the state to educate project communities about solar and its benefits. To educate municipalities at a state level, EDFR regularly donates to United Solar Energy Supporters (USES), who host important webinars on solar energy. Community Relations Manager, Haylee Ferington serves as technical advisor for USES, and development team members and subject matter expert consultants, have presented on USES webinars. In addition, EDFR team members have presented at universities and schools on solar energy. EDFR also partners with New Yorkers for Clean Power on initiatives like the 2023 State Fair, where EDFR made over 75 bracelets with engaged fair goers as well as in 2021/2022 for solar car workshops across western New York!

As mentioned, to address municipal assistance, EDFR commits to an ESCROW account, so municipalities may hire consultants and legal staff so they may be properly educated on the solar project, but not at expense of the local taxpayer. In addition, EDFR will take municipalities on bus tours of existing and in construction project sites, provide trainings, and have in depth conversations with subject matter experts and agency representatives at the request and need of host municipalities to ensure all needs and questions are met.

Co-Location Opportunities and Challenges

EDF Renewables supports opportunities for the integration of agricultural activities including agricultural coproduction, pollinator support, and native habitat support at their large-scale ground-mounted solar projects included in this bid submission.

Large-scale solar developments tend to seek out land that is relatively flat, free of existing obstructions, and are limited in the negative impacts imposed on natural heritage features (i.e. wetlands). Due to this economic design preference, solar developments and agricultural land tend to overlap. It is a common misconception that it is an either/or option. Solar development and agricultural endeavors can be integrated in a successful and meaningful way.

In collaboration with the Town of Mount Morris, EDFR has been actively engaged to investigate the feasibility of integrating agrivoltaic solutions into the 177 MW Morris Ridge Solar project by working on a report that investigates the economics of hosting sheep and bees and supply chains for selling their products. The collaborative team working on this report, comprised of experts in their fields of study, includes Agrivoltaic Solutions, LLC experienced sheep farmers working with solar developers to promote grazing sheep on solar installations; Juniper Economic Consulting with 18 years of experience managing agricultural economic market analyses, feasibility studies, economic impact studies, and policy

recommendations specifically tailored to the U.S. sheep industry; Sweet Grass Food & Farm Consulting supporting honey bee best practices and economic feasibility; and Letchworth Gateway Villages (LGV) a municipal collaborative initiative designed to catalyze economic growth within the region and supporting marketing and outreach for the locally raised, grass-fed solar lamb and solar honey that can be produced at the solar facility and ideally sold to consumers in the area.

The objective of the proposed 177 MW (about 1,000 acre) Morris Ridge solar project is ultimately the successful integration of utility-scale ground mounted solar that includes a form of agriculture, thereby developing a template for utility-scale solar facilities in NYS to integrate agricultural practices into the operation of existing and future solar facilities and maintaining or improving agricultural production.

The integration of solar grazing and bee keeping at Morris Ridge has the potential to create additional value streams for the local farmers and apiarists, diversify the land productivity, improve or maintain agricultural production, and improve or maintain local biodiversity. The Project also seeks to identify and strengthen market opportunities for domestic lamb and honey enabled at solar facilities. On a larger scale, this project aims to provide a template for similar integration at other large-scale solar sites in NYS and across New England that are either in operation or are yet to be constructed. This expanded integration can have a positive impact on the NYS economy, creating a domestic market for grass-fed, solar-raised lamb and solar honey products, increasing and diversifying land productivity while developing renewable energy projects, and supporting NYS in reaching its renewable energy targets by 2030 and 2040.

As mentioned above, EDF Renewables developed, owns, and operates the Arnprior Solar Project (Arnprior), a 23 MW commercial scale ground-mounted solar facility on 200 acres of land located near Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. EDFR pioneered the use of solar energy in Canada and doubled the grid-connected solar PV capacity in the country by building the Arnprior facility in 2009. Now in its twelfth year of operation, the site is host to more than 300 sheep grazing under the solar panels, bees that produce 300 jars of honey annually, and milkweed for endangered monarch butterflies. These initiatives are a commitment to biodiversity, increasing land productivity, and are emblematic of EDFR's mission to lead the transition to a truly sustainable energy future by collaborating with the local communities, local agricultural businesses, and landowners. The experience gained at Arnprior will be directly applied to EDFR's portfolio of projects.

To demonstrate the EDFR team's commitment to making 'agrivoltaics' the combination of agriculture and solar photovoltaics happen, please visit the following materials that are available for public consumption via our project websites:

- Morris Ridge Agrivoltaic Solutions Video (presented by a sheep farmer who is experienced in solar grazing and invited to participate in our public meeting)
- Morris Ridge Open House town hall presentation (February 26, 2020) starting at 38:20 and presented by a sheep farmer who is experienced in solar grazing
- EDFR produced a corporate video highlighting its commitment toward sustainability practices such as solar grazing and hosting pollinators
- EDF Renewables Arnprior solar case study

Members of the EDF Renewables New York State development team are also members of and support the efforts of the American Solar Grazing Association. In fact, a member of our development team and the sheep farmer who is grazing the Arnprior solar site were guest speakers at the August 2020 Solar Grazing Call, the monthly information call hosted by the American Solar Grazing Association.

8. Feedback from the Community

Virtual Meetings and Podcasts

During to the COVID-19 pandemic, EDFR needed to adapt its community outreach strategy to continue the important work of informing communities during challenging times when it was not possible to meet in public gatherings. The solution was to hold virtual community meetings where EDFR developers and experts shared updates on project development, studies conducted, land acquisition, our conversations with state and local officials, other consultations, and the Article 10 / Section 94-c permitting processes, including the anticipated application date and information regarding the future availability of local agency and community intervenor funds.

In another effort to make different types of media available to reach out to as many people in our communities as possible, EDFR developed a podcast series focused on educating the public about solar projects in development across New York state¹. The podcasts explain the project background and benefits, answer frequently asked questions, and detail the importance of reaching out to the community and building grassroots support. They include interviews with some of our participating landowners, the president of a local chamber of commerce, the beekeeper and farmer grazing sheep on one of our project sites in Ontario, Canada, our project developers, and energy storage safety experts. The podcasts are available on most popular podcast platforms² and also advertised on the radio in the local markets and on the radio station's websites.³ Other podcasts are available on project websites, including for the Moraine Solar project.⁴ When awarded a contract with NYSERDA, EDFR will develop a new podcast focused directly on the Moraine Solar project, and its impact on the community, featuring interviews with landowners, environmental groups, local businesses and other stakeholders.

EDF Renewables Feedback Opportunities

EDF Renewables understands the importance of building lasting meaningful relationships with the local communities in which their projects are located. EDFR uses project websites to easily share project details and other information like FAQs with the local community or any other person interested. EDFR also maintains project email addresses and 1-800 phone numbers, where interested parties can get in touch with a project representative at any time. In fact, to help substantiate EDF Renewables' commitment to stakeholder engagement, a full-time internal position was created in 2021 within the team for a community relations manager that has since been staffed by a resident of upstate New York.

Realizing integration of solar projects and communities demands an understanding of our modern society, Community Relations Manager, Haylee Ferington, provides a unique vantage to this. A commitment to

¹ www.ridgeviewsolar.com/multimedia

² <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/edf-renewables-solar-podcast/id1533678839>

³ <https://www.wxhc.com/three-landowners-discuss-why-they-lease-their-land-episode-one/>

⁴ <https://www.edf-re.com/project/moraine-solar/resources/>

maximizing community benefits in a way that preserves and uplifts our rural communities runs through this work. Her previous role as a NYSERDA Clean Energy Community Coordinator prepared her to assist with many topics for local governments, from local laws to resident education and green energy initiatives. Currently, Haylee serves as technical advisor to United Solar Energy Supporters, steering committee member and renewable energy working group chair for the Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee Finger Lakes, and on her village parks committee. Haylee works to create an iterative and holistic process of feedback between EDF Renewable's New York development team and project communities through unique interaction opportunities like handmade coloring books and long-term partnerships like with local schools and NYSERDA Clean Energy Hubs.

Project Website

Each of our solar projects has a user-friendly website containing information about specific benefits to both the community and our environment, and any information previously shared with the community, including public meeting information boards, newsletters, and permitting documents. Some websites include multimedia experiences, and all of them include information on how to communicate with our development team, provide feedback, or seek additional information. The Moraine Solar Project can be found at <https://www.edf-re.com/project/moraine-solar/about/>

9. Planned Community Outreach Strategies and Activities

Future Outreach Strategies and Activities

Recognizing Moraine Solar could be nearing the construction phase of its life, should a NYSERDA Tier 1 contract be awarded, future outreach strategies will involve keeping the community and municipality involved and informed of processes moving ahead, as well as continued conversations and feedback loops finalizing project designs to continue to integrate project into fabric of community.

As one of the first large scale solar projects to enter construction, Morris Ridge Solar, in Livingston County, provides EDFR holds some unique advantages to the pre-construction and construction phases of solar project development. Some important lessons learned are to consider google map directions when negotiating road use agreements, working with local communities such as Amish or Mennonite to understand and accommodate daily and religious travel patterns, and working with local liaisons to maintain a close and constant point of contact through this phase.

Leading up to construction, EDF Renewables will engage with the local community to provide a booklet of local services and hospitality businesses to distribute to the hundreds of construction workers who will work in the area for many months. This booklet will help to promote local businesses across Allegheny County to maximize opportunities to support the local economy. EDFR has implemented this booklet during 2023-2024 construction of the Morris Ridge Solar project and had much positive feedback, including local shops saying they have received more business directly from project contractors and subcontractors using the booklet, namely a local pizza shop saw upwards of 50 slices/day. When we consider this impact across a variety of sectors and businesses the collective impact is great.

Finally, through a combination of podcasts, webinars, mailers, public meetings, website updates or one on one conversations, the Project team will continue to communicate relevant information and collect meaningful feedback from all stakeholders to better integrate the Project within the community.

Community Opportunities/Capacity Building

EDF Renewables recognizes the importance of building community opportunities and capacity during the development, construction, and operation of the project and will continue in many of our engagement and outreach efforts as listed below:

- \$10,000 Share the Sun Fund, community grant program with selections by local committee (for the life of the project)
- Annual \$2,000 Scholarships to students from Canaseraga Central Schools (for ten years)
- \$94,000 one-time payment for energy efficiency upgrades for disadvantaged households in the town of Burns
- Workforce development bringing virtual reality tour and a two-part training series to project communities with cost sponsored by EDFR in partnership with SUNY ESF and local unions
- Continued conversations and trainings surrounding agrivoltaics and sheep grazing at the Moraine Solar site
- Continued work with SUNY Geneseo, Alfred State and Alfred University to create academic partnerships and research opportunities at Moraine Solar Center

EDF Renewables realizes community engagement is an iterative and long-lasting process and thusly cannot put an end date on our community engagement plan as conversations, partnerships and outreach will continue so long as the Moraine Solar Energy Center is in development and operation. Further, we recognize despite every effort to solicit feedback from the local community, there may be voices we have missed. EDFR encourages community residents to continue to reach out at newyorksolar@edf-re.com or 1-833-333-7369.