

Delivering Reliable Power Supporting Communities Protecting the Environment



Dunns Valley Solar (200 MW) is a solar energy project planned for lands approximately 55 km east of the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The project was awarded a 20-year contract by Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) in its Long-Term 2 Window 1 energy procurement. The project is set to be the largest solar farm in Ontario. Once constructed, the project will add more than 380,000 MWh of emissions-free energy to the power grid, equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of more than 40,000 households in Ontario.¹

Neoen and Garden River First Nation have partnered to co-develop, co-own and co-operate the project in a 50% equity partnership. Construction is expected to begin as early as 2028, with a target in-service date of 2030.

¹ Figure based on the Ontario Energy Board's average per household monthly consumption of 750 kWh.

Project Benefits



Local employment, supplier, and skills training opportunities



Supports the clean energy transition



Advances Indigenous leadership and economic participation in the energy sector



About Neoen

Founded in 2008, Neoen is one of the world's leading renewable energy companies, with expertise in solar, onshore wind power and battery storage. Neoen has a global portfolio capacity of 9.3 GW in construction, in operation or under management across 15 countries.

Since entering Canada in 2022, Neoen secured a portfolio capacity of 968 MW, including a 200 MW solar project co-owned by Garden River First Nation; a second 50 MW solar project co-owned by Matachewan First Nation; a 400 MW/4-hour battery storage project in the Traditional Territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation; Mino Giizis, a 157 MWp solar project in Saskatchewan, co-owned by Anishinabek Power Alliance; and Fox Coulee, a 93 MWp operating solar farm in Starland County, Alberta.



Want to learn more?

Read more about the project, provide your feedback and ask questions at canada.neoen.com/dunns-valley-solar/. Our team is ready to support your inquiries.

Frequently Asked Questions: Solar Energy, Safety, Environment

Solar Energy

What is solar energy?

Solar photovoltaic (PV) energy is a type of electricity generation technology that uses solar panels to convert sunlight into electricity. It captures energy from the sun and produces power that can be used immediately or fed into the electric grid.

Why are solar facilities needed in Ontario?

Ontario's electricity demand is projected to rise over 75% between 2025 and 2050, driven by heating, EVs, and electrification. Solar energy supports this growth by providing clean electricity during peak sunlight hours, enhancing grid reliability, and enabling greater renewable energy integration.

How does it work?

A solar facility captures sunlight during the day and converts it into electricity to power homes, farms, and businesses, helping to meet energy demand, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and support a stable, reliable grid.

Safety

Is the solar facility safe?

Yes. The facility will comply with all municipal, provincial, federal and industry regulations and is being developed in coordination with local fire services and industry experts. It includes multiple layers of fire prevention, detection, suppression, and containment, along with 24/7 monitoring and emergency shutdown systems. Dunns Valley Solar will meet or exceed recognized safety standards to minimise risk and protect the surrounding community.

How is any potential fire risk managed?

Solar panels are very safe and pose minimal fire risk, with fires being extremely rare and usually due to faulty installation or damage. Neoen further reduces risk through vegetation management, robust design, coordination with local fire services, and on-site water for fire preparedness where needed.

Are there any health risks associated with solar farms?

Solar panels have been installed on houses around the world for many years with no health issues linked to them. Dunns Valley Solar would use the same proven photovoltaic technology across a larger site on low-voltage infrastructure.

What monitoring and emergency measures are in place?

The facility will be continuously monitored using automated safety and detection systems. Emergency response plans are developed in coordination with local fire services to ensure any issues are identified and addressed quickly.



Dubbo Solar Hub, Australia
(28.9 MWdc)

Environment

Will the project impact flora and fauna?

The project is designed to minimize environmental impacts by avoiding sensitive habitats and implementing protection measures for soil, water, vegetation, and ecosystems. Additional mitigation measures include management plans, designated no-go zones, and pre-clearance surveys. Tree removals will be required to accommodate the project.

How much water is used to clean solar panels?

Minimal. In Ontario, panels are naturally cleaned by rainfall and winter snow shed. This "self-cleaning" cycle removes dust and debris without requiring significant water consumption.

Does the solar facility impact visual landscape?

Minimal to no visual impact. The project is located in a remote area away from residential communities. To ensure the facility remains nearly invisible from public view, we are maintaining a buffer of existing natural vegetation along all roads.

Will the project reduce air quality?

Dust levels are monitored throughout construction, with high-dust activities paused in windy conditions if controls are insufficient. Machinery is visually inspected during site checks and daily pre-starts to ensure proper emissions control and maintenance. Water trucks are used as needed to suppress dust from deliveries during construction.

What will happen at the end of a solar farm's life?

Neoen will fully decommission the facility and restore the land to its pre-development condition. A detailed plan will be developed with Garden River First Nation.

What is your recycling policy?

Neoen implements circular procurement with project partners to follow best recycling practices. Solar panels—mostly aluminium, glass, and silicon—are typically recycled by the manufacturer, with over 90% of their materials recoverable for reuse.



Antugnac, France
(7.3 MWc)