

Hawthorn Solar Project

Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your interest in the Hawthorn Solar Project! Below is a brief list of answers to some of the more frequently asked questions (FAQs) about this project that we hope will be helpful.

- 1. Who is CS Energy?** CS Energy is an integrated energy company specialized in developing and building solar and energy storage projects throughout the US, but particularly in our core markets of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. CS Energy was founded out of the Conti Group, a family-owned large-scale construction firm in NJ, and is currently owned by American Securities, a NY-based private equity firm.
- 2. Who is Hawthorn Solar, LLC?** Hawthorn Solar, LLC is a project-specific entity controlled by CS Energy. Project-specific LLCs are an industry standard approach for renewable energy projects to make sure that all the permits and contracts associated with the project stay tied to the project throughout the project life.
- 3. What is this project?** The Hawthorn Solar Project is a 20 Megawatt (MW) solar project proposed to be located in the town of Hoosick, NY. The project will connect to the high voltage (115kV) transmission lines that run through Hoosick between the National Grid-owned substations in North Troy and Hoosick, and will generate electricity to be supplied to the New York state electric grid.
- 4. How big is this project?** The project is 20 Megawatts (MW) which will produce energy sufficient to power more than 4,000 homes annually. The project will be sited on approximately 135 acres of land (within the project's fence lines).
- 5. When is this project supposed to happen?** The project is currently scheduled to start construction in late 2023 or early 2024 and is expected to be operational by the end of 2025. The project is then expected to generate electricity for 30 years or more.
- 6. What happens at the end of the project life?** These projects are designed with an operational life of 30 years or more, but once the project has reached the end of its useful life, it will be decommissioned. The project components will be removed from the site and the site will be returned to a usable condition, similar to pre-construction conditions. Prior to construction start, the project will post financial security to ensure

that if there is any issue with getting the project decommissioned at the end of life, there is money set aside for the town to hire their own contractors to make sure the system is decommissioned properly.

- 7. How will the project be maintained?** Solar projects like this one are very low-maintenance, and will be primarily monitored remotely, with ongoing preventative maintenance as needed. The primary maintenance work on site will be in keeping the vegetation on site under control and the access roads clear for emergencies. The project plans to contract locally for these scopes. If possible, the project also hopes to contract with one or more local shepherd(s) to maintain the vegetation on site using sheep. Solar sheep grazing is a growing industry in NY state, and while it doesn't work for every situation, our hope is that will be the primary vegetation management method on site.
- 8. Why is this project being sited here?** New York State has established a nation-leading set of targets for the generation of clean electricity, calling for 70% of the state's electricity to be produced by renewable sources by 2030. Due to these targets, and the programs New York has created to push toward them, renewable energy development in the state has boomed over the past few years. A key factor of locating any energy project is finding a location with existing electrical infrastructure to connect to, and an area where there is a need for electricity. As the high voltage lines running through Hoosick are ideal for large-scale generation, this encouraged the location of a project in this area. From there, the location is determined by a combination of environmental factors and finding willing landowner partners.
- 9. Are there any batteries on this project?** No. While solar projects paired with battery storage are becoming more common, this project is connecting directly to the grid without battery storage.
- 10. What happens if there is a fire?** While any electrical equipment has some risk of fire, the risk of sustained fire on a solar panel is very limited as there is very minimal flammable material on site. When fires do happen, they're typically isolated and either burn out on their own with no intervention, or are able to be quickly controlled by emergency responders. Prior to entering operation, the project will hold fire safety trainings with local fire department(s) to ensure they understand all the proper procedures for controlling fires on site.
- 11. What is the tax impact of this project?** We expect that the project will pay more than a million dollars over the first 20 years of the project life in a combination of property taxes, PILOT agreements, and host community agreements with the Town(s), County, and School District(s).