

Utility Scale Solar Development in Ohio

Overview – Utility Scale Solar Trends in Ohio

The increasing development of utility-scale photovoltaic solar consumes massive tracts of land. In Ohio, there are currently 12 large scale solar projects submitted to the Ohio Power Siting Board representing 1,900 megawatts of potential electric generation capacity. The 12 projects have an average footprint of 1,750 acres each, yielding a combined total of over 20,000 acres to support the planned solar development in Ohio. As a result of these trends, farmers are being approached to lease large tracks of ground for solar development.

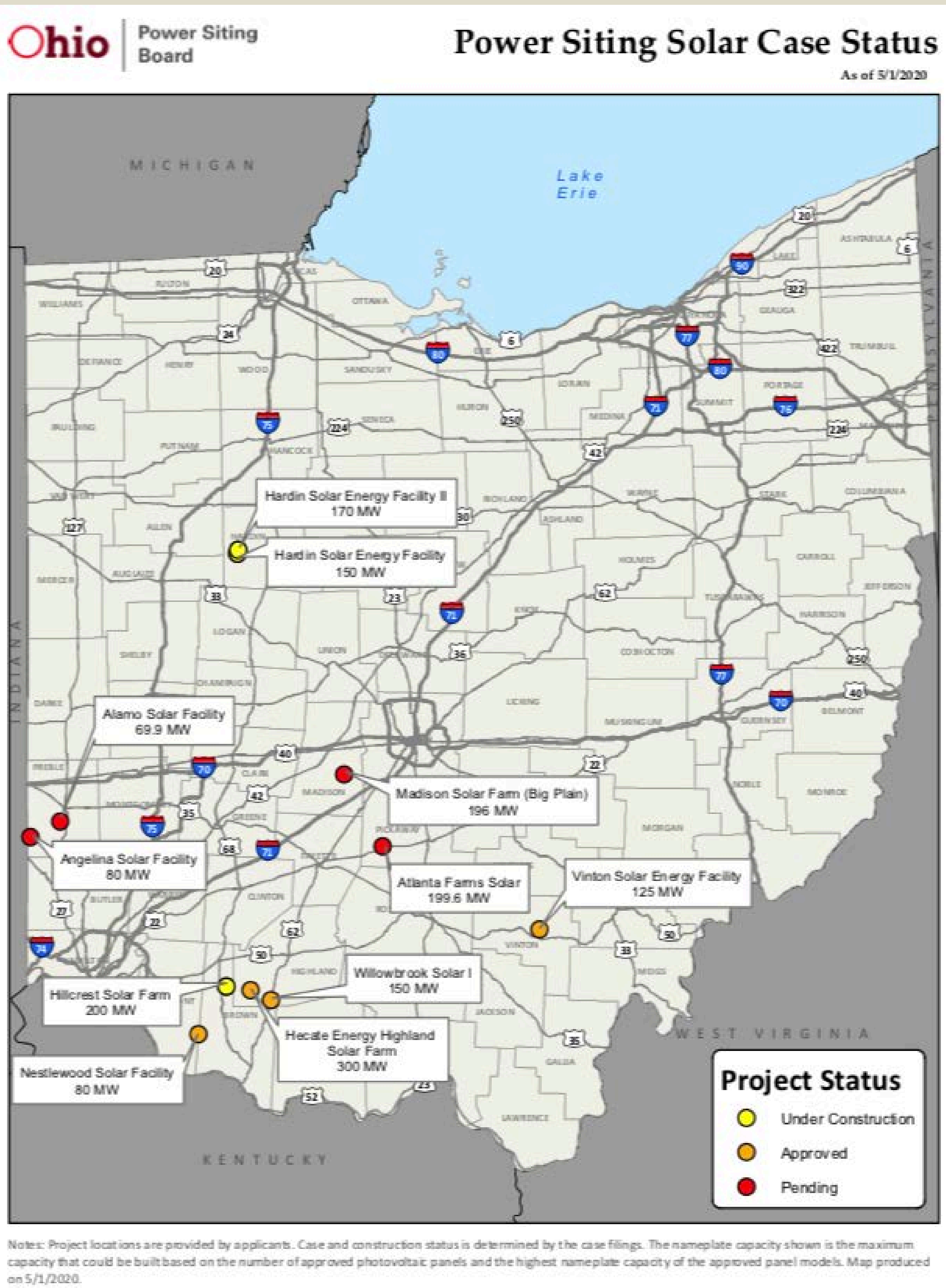
Although solar energy is “green” and “renewable,” it is not without conflict. Leasing land for solar energy development raises both positive and negative implications for the land, family, farm operation, and community. Typically, lease agreements between solar energy developers and landowners require a long-term legal commitment ranging from 25 to 45 years. This long-term action can require changes in a farm operation, remove a generation from the land, affect farmland availability and reuse, and significantly alter the character of a community’s landscape. On the other hand, leasing farmland for solar energy can satisfy demands for renewable energy, create economic stability for farmland owners, and generate tax revenue for a community.



Solar Leasing Guide

With funding from the National Agricultural Library at the United States Department of Agriculture, the National Agricultural Law Center partnered with the Ohio State University Agricultural and Resource Law Program to develop resources for landowners and communities faced with decisions related to solar energy development.

These peer reviewed materials include a simple two-page checklist and a comprehensive 43-page technical guide titled, Farmland Owner’s Guide to Solar Leasing. The resources aim to help farmland owners and communities better understand the solar energy development process, the solar energy leasing phases, and the language and terms they will encounter in a typical solar lease.



For More Information

For additional information on utility scale solar development please visit:
go.osu.edu/utility-solar



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