



# Blm solar energy program

What is a BLM Solar Plan?

The BLM is committed to planning for responsible solar energy development on public land in a responsible way that balances the need for clean energy with protection of natural, cultural, and historic resources. The 2012 Western Solar Plan included six southwestern states, Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah.

What information is available on the BLM's solar energy permitting Resources website?

Relevant information on this website is in the process of being updated. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared this website to provide Solar Energy Permitting Resources to aid BLM staff, solar energy developers, other regulators, and the public in understanding: Information on activities and initiatives related to BLM's Solar Program.

What is the BLM's new Western Solar Plan?

On August 29, 2024 the BLM announced its proposed updated Western Solar Plan, designed to ensure efficient and environmentally responsible solar energy project permitting on public lands across the West. For more information, read our frequently asked questions or visit the ePlanning project page.

Does the BLM have a role in solar energy deployment?

Solar energy has seen dramatic deployment increases in the United States and worldwide over the past decade. The recent Executive Order 14008 and Energy Act of 2020 have prioritized the BLM's attention to improving the permitting process to facilitate responsible renewable energy deployment on public lands.

When was BLM's new solar energy program approved?

The Program was approved in October 2012 through the Record of Decision for the Solar PEIS. For more information, see [Launch of BLM's New Solar Energy Program Web Site](#) under News.

Are solar energy development projects permitted on BLM-managed public lands?

Solar energy development projects on BLM-managed public lands are authorized as rights-of-way under Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended consistent with appropriate BLM land-use plans. Regulations at 43 CFR 2800 identify requirements for solar development application and permitting.

PEIS, implementation of any future BLM solar energy program, and this PA, and the tribes have been invited to concur in this PA; and . WHEREAS, execution of this PA by a Concurring Party indicates participation in the Section 106 consultations and acknowledgment that their party's views were taken into consideration,

Solar Energy Zones (SEZs) are defined as areas well suited for utility-scale production of solar energy, where the BLM will prioritize solar energy and associated transmission infrastructure development. The SEZs are



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identified as Designated Leasing Areas (DLAs) in BLM's leasing regulations (43 CFR 2800).

**BLM'S CURRENT SOLAR ENERGY PROGRAM** . As of December 2022, the BLM has permitted 41 solar energy projects totaling more than 9 gigawatts (GW) of approved capacity (with almost 4 GW in operation). But more renewable energy is needed. The Energy Act of 2020 directs the Secretary of the Interior to seek to authorize 25 GW of renewable energy

**SALT LAKE CITY** -- As part of its ongoing effort to support responsible renewable energy development on public lands, the Bureau of Land Management is holding a public scoping meeting in Salt Lake City to solicit feedback on the recently announced programmatic environmental impact statement for the BLM's utility-scale solar energy planning.. The BLM is ...

The purpose of this "Solar Energy Permitting and Program Resources" website is to provide updated information on solar energy development and the ROW application process to BLM ...

BLM's competitive process and requirements for issuing solar energy right-of-way (ROW) leases. The regulations at 43 CFR 2800 and subparts (as amended in 2017) allow for the BLM to issue solar energy ROW "leases" (43 CFR 2809) through a competitive process for utility-scale solar energy development within designated leasing areas (DLAs) (which are preferred locations for ...

**Proposed Updated Western Solar Plan Frequently Asked Questions** Why is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) updating the Western Solar Plan? Demand for solar development on public lands is booming . As the nation's largest land manager, the BLM is uniquely positioned to support the transition to a clean energy economy as directed by ...

The 2012 Western Solar Plan programmatic design features are required measures or procedures designed to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate potential adverse impacts from solar energy development.. The Programmatic Design Features are required for all projects processed under the 2012 Western Solar Plan (that is, utility-scale right-of-way (ROW) applications within the ...

The BLM supports a sustainable and responsible energy approach, which includes renewable energy resources such as wind, geothermal and solar and oil and gas, coal, and strategic minerals--all of which may be developed on public lands and subject to free markets.

Consistent with the Energy Act of 2020, 43 U.S.C. 3003, and Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 43 U.S.C. 1761 et seq. (FLPMA), the BLM determined through the final rule that changes to the acreage rents and capacity fees for solar and wind energy ROWs on public lands are necessary in order to "promote the greatest use of ...

The BLM is currently processing 41 utility-scale onshore clean energy projects proposed on public lands in the western United States. This includes solar, wind, and geothermal projects, as well ...



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The BLM has released its Solar Energy Program Web site (<https://blmsolar.anl.gov>), which is the online center for public information regarding the ongoing implementation of the Solar Energy ...

Through the Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, and Record of Decision the BLM designated 285,000 acres of Solar Energy Zones (now referred to as designated leasing areas) where development would be prioritized. The agency also identified another approximately 19 million acres of public lands with solar energy potential outside ...

SPOKANE, Washington -- As part of its ongoing effort to support responsible renewable energy development on public lands, the Bureau of Land Management is holding a public scoping meeting in Spokane to solicit feedback on the recently announced programmatic environmental impact statement for the BLM's utility-scale solar energy planning. The BLM is ...

BLM Solar Energy Program Design Features 3 o Indemnifying the United States against any liability arising from the release of any hazardous substance or hazardous waste on the facility or associated with facility activities. o Providing a copy of any report required or requested by any

WASHINGTON -- As part of its ongoing effort to support responsible development of renewable energy on public lands, the Bureau of Land Management is holding a series of public scoping meetings to solicit feedback on the recently announced programmatic environmental impact statement for the BLM's utility-scale solar energy planning. The BLM is ...

The BLM National Renewable Energy Strategy Ramping up renewable energy deployment on America's public lands is a key step toward meeting the Biden-Harris Administration's goal of a carbon pollution-free power sector by 2035, as well as Congress's direction to seek to permit at least 25 gigawatts of solar, wind and geothermal energy production on public lands no later ...

The BLM announced a Notice of Intent for the Dodge Flat II Solar project in Nevada, which, if approved, will generate up to 200 megawatts of photovoltaic solar energy on ...

West-wide Wind Mapping Project. The West-wide Wind Mapping Project is an online mapping tool that allows users to overlay wind energy potential on BLM-administered lands with other natural, social, and cultural resource data.. BLM staff and stakeholders can use the tool to identify areas with high wind energy potential and low resource conflict that may be appropriate for wind ...

BILLINGS, Montana -- As part of its ongoing effort to support responsible renewable energy development on public lands, the Bureau of Land Management is holding a public scoping meeting in Billings to solicit feedback on the recently announced programmatic environmental impact statement for the BLM's utility-scale solar energy planning.. The BLM is ...



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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Due to substantial public interest, the Bureau of Land Management has added one more virtual session to its series of public scoping meetings seeking input on potential changes to its solar energy program. In total the BLM will have hosted 15 meetings, both virtual and in person, to solicit feedback on its recently announced intent to ...

DOI and BLM Announce Progress on Solar Energy and Transmission Facilities in Nevada. On September 9, 2024, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced that the BLM is finalizing two projects and moving forward two more that will advance solar energy facilities and transmission lines in Nevada, helping deliver ...

RENO, Nevada-- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is holding an open-house meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada on February 13, 2024, 5:00-7:00 pm at Red Rock Casino to provide information on the Department of the Interior's ongoing efforts to support appropriate renewable energy development on our nation's public lands through an updated Western ...

Idaho Renewable Energy Strategy. Addressing the increase in industry demand for renewable energy projects on BLM-managed public lands in southern Idaho, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is making available the Public Engagement Report, which compiles feedback received during four public meetings held in early spring. Based on public response, BLM ...

PHOENIX -- As part of its ongoing effort to support responsible renewable energy development on public lands, the Bureau of Land Management is holding a public scoping meeting in Gilbert, Ariz. to solicit feedback on the recently announced programmatic environmental impact statement for the BLM's utility-scale solar energy planning.. The BLM is considering updates to its 2012 ...

The BLM has released its Solar Energy Program Web site (<https://blmsolar.anl.gov>), which is the online center for public information regarding the ongoing implementation of the Solar Energy Program. The Program was approved in October 2012 through the Record of ...

BLM Releases Draft Environmental Assessment for Sapphire Project in Riverside County. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for linear facility routes for the Sapphire Project, a proposed 117-megawatt photovoltaic solar energy and battery storage project that would be located on private lands and approximately 40 acres ...

For all solar and wind energy facilities on public lands, the BLM requires payment in advance for the use of the public lands. Payment in advance includes an acreage rent that is required prior to the issuance of a grant or lease, and a megawatt (MW) capacity fee which is required prior to the start of energy generation.

Through the Western Solar Plan, the BLM committed to preparing monitoring strategies for Solar Energy Zones to better understand the impacts of solar development on public lands. The BLM's monitoring efforts ensure that data and lessons learned about the impacts of solar energy projects will be collected, reviewed,



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and, as appropriate ...

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. -- As part of an ongoing effort to support responsible renewable energy development on public lands, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is holding a Public Scoping Meeting, Jan. 26, 3-7 p.m., in Albuquerque, N.M., to solicit feedback on the recently announced Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for BLM's utility ...

Courtesy of BLM Bureau of Land Management, Solar Energy Permitting and Program Resources BLM's Solar Plan: Balancing Efficiency, Flexibility, & Conservation September 2, 2024 2 months ago NRDC 0 ...

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