



Compass Greenfield Development Suite 506, 192 Spadina Ave, Toronto, ON M5T2C2

# RE: Notice of Public Meeting for Golden Leaf Agrivoltaics Project

To whom it may concern,

In response to Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator ("IESO") Long-Term 2 (Energy) Procurement, Compass Greenfield Development is proposing to develop the Golden Leaf Agrivoltaics Project, a proposed agrivoltaics project integrated with farming in the Township of Drummond/North Elmsley.

The Golden Leaf Agrivoltaics Project would be located at PT LT 17 CON 10 North Elmsley AS IN RS127991; Drummond-N Elmsley (PIN: 05232-0010) and E1/2 LT 16 CON 10 NORTH ELMSLEY; PT W1/2 LT 16 CON 10 NORTH ELMSLEY AS IN RS207354 EXCEPT PT 1 (PIN: 05232-0015); Intersection: Drummond Concession 1 & Ebert Rd. It will provide up to 9.5 Mega-Watt (MWac) of electricity generation, providing much-needed electricity for Ontario. Please see the attached revised project layout and the Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Open House Meeting Minutes for further reference.

More details on the IESO's Long-Term 2 (Energy) Procurement are available online at: <a href="https://www.ieso.ca/Sector-Participants/Resource-Acquisition-and-Contracts/Long-Term-2-RFP">https://www.ieso.ca/Sector-Participants/Resource-Acquisition-and-Contracts/Long-Term-2-RFP</a>

This meeting forms part of our Community and Indigenous engagement plan. Its purpose is to answer any questions regarding the preliminary project design. To accomplish this, we are inviting local landowners and municipal council/staff to our public meeting to discuss the proposed project.

# **Public Community Meeting for Golden Leaf Agrivoltaics Project**

Technology of the Long-Term Energy Project: Solar Photovoltaics Maximum potential Contract Capacity (in MWac): 9.5 MW Property Identification Numbers (PINs): 05232-0010, 05232-0015



Meeting Date : May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Meeting Time : 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Meeting Time : 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Meeting Location : Royal Canadian Legion Branch 244

26 Beckwith St E, Perth ON K7H 1B5

This second public community meeting will be conducted in a panel-led format featuring a formal presentation and poster boards that reflect a new design with changes, including a further setback preliminary design which is approximately 500m from Drummond Concession 1 along with other information about the proposed project. There will be CGD representatives present for the full duration of the meeting and attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposed project. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

For greater public access, a project website has also been created at **goldenleafagrivoltaics.ca**. You can find this notice, along with the project's Indigenous & Community Engagement Plan, FAQ, and all other updates on the proposed project posted on the Project Website. Please subscribe to our mailing list on the website if you wish to receive project updates.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may reach out to us at <u>info@goldenleafagrivoltaics.ca</u> to provide feedback and ask questions regarding the project.

We look forward to hosting you.

Sincerely,

Compass Greenfield Development.

NEW Revised Preliminary Layout Point of -Interconnection Notes: Existing — 44kV Line - Property Boundary 1- All the fenced area will remain in the existing vegetation buffer layer. Proper vegetation will be added where it is required. Vegetative Screening (around the fence, where it is required) 2- Any tree clearing by the developer will ensure compliance with all applicable permits. Underground HV Connection Line 3- There is a setback of 30 meters from the property line to the solar panels on the west side, and a setback of Private Access Road Inverter & Transformer about 15 meters on all other sides of the property. Future Residence Private Access Road HV Transformer **HV Protection Equipment** Site Enterance **AGRIVOLTAICS SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS:** Primary Usage: Sheep Farm Solar Array 30m Setback line Secondary Usage Pollinator Garden **Total Grazing Area** 55 Acres Watercourse Number of the Sheep: Approx. 200 30m Setback line (around the fence, where it is required) Pollinator Garden Communication Tower COMPASS
GREENFIELD DEVELOPMENT Spare parts Storage **Golden Leaf Agrivoltaics** Containers AGRIVOLTAICS SYSTEM - PRELIMINARY LAYOUT 2025-04-14 Jonathan Cheszes 44° 55' 15"N 76° 11' 18"W Jonathan Cheszes APPLICATION Sheep Farm + Pollinator Garden Single Axis Tracker RACKING AC CAPACITY (MW) Image © 2024 Airbus



# GOLDEN LEAF AGRIVOLTAICS

Open House
Minutes of Meeting
11th February 2025



# Public Open House for Golden Leaf Agrivoltaics

Date: 11th February 2025 Time: 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

**Location: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 244** 

Proponent Contact Information: <a href="mailto:info@goldenleafagrivoltaics.ca">info@goldenleafagrivoltaics.ca</a>

Project Name: Golden Leaf Agrivoltaics

Maximum Nameplate Capacity: Approx 9.5 MWac

Technology: Solar

### **PRESENTERS**

Compass Greenfield Development

Jonathan Cheszes Roberto Caputo James Marzotto Seyara Wijesinghe

### **AGENDA**

The Public Open House provided attendees with the opportunity to view poster boards displaying key Proponent and Project information. The presenting team engaged attendees, responded to their questions, and solicited their feedback on the Project.

Displayed poster boards covered the following topics:

- CGD's Projects in Canada
- Ontario's Power Needs



- What is Agrivoltaics?
- About the Project
- Preliminary Project Design
- Why your Municipality?
- Regulatory & Environmental Compliance/Development Timelines

Please refer Appendix A for the poster boards displayed at the public open house, which includes the Project details.

### **OVERVIEW OF OPEN HOUSE**

During the meeting, approximately 60 people attended. Several participants were curious about the project and the impacts, others had questions, some left having no concerns. However, several participants raised concerns which have been summarized below. If you are reviewing these minutes and don't see your concern summarized, please reach out to the project team at: <a href="mailto:info@goldenleafagrivoltaics.ca">info@goldenleafagrivoltaics.ca</a>

# **Summary of questions/concerns:**

### 1) Why did you choose this location for an agrivoltaics project?

In general, this site was chosen because it satisfied several criteria to allow for a solar project in Ontario.

**Non-Prime Agricultural Area:** The province has restricted ground mount solar development on Prime Agricultural Areas as defined in the Provincial Policy Statement. This proposed agrivoltaics project is located on land designated as Rural in the Lanark County Official Plan and currently is used for sheep grazing.

**Electrical Capacity:** The 44-kilovolt distribution line that is close to the project has capacity for the project.

**Willing landowner:** The landowner is willing to host the project and would maintain the flock of sheep.

**Agrivoltaics:** The property already has a flock of sheep that will continue to pasture in the location of the solar power project and ensure that the property has an agricultural use for the next 20 + years.



**Supportive Official Plan:** The Official Plan of Lanark County supports the development of renewable energy projects.

### 2) Will the agrivoltaics project lower neighbouring property value?

Some attendees expressed concern regarding the impact of the solar project on neighboring property values. The presenting team highlighted that there are four other solar projects of similar size and scale in the surrounding area (within 7 km of the site). There have been several third-party studies demonstrating large-scale solar arrays often have no measurable impact on the value of adjacent properties, and in some cases may even have positive effects.

# 3) <u>There will be several impacts on the neighbours, how will the neighbours and the local community</u> benefit from this agrivoltaics project?

# a. Visual Appearance of site from neighbouring properties

Compass Greenfield Development ("CGD") is committed to minimizing the visual impacts on neighbours by installing a vegetative visual screen around the site where one does not already exist. We will work with an arborist to determine the best type of visual screen for the soil class on site. Additionally, a poster was presented (see Appendix A) highlighting trees will be planted such that they are at 10ft at the start of operations with a projection to reach 15ft in 2 to 3 years.

There were comments about CGDs past projects and willingness to make changes to our design based on neighbour feedback. The team is actively evaluating design changes for this project to further reduce visual impacts and concerns and will be presenting the changes to the community prior to going to Municipal Council.

### b. Who benefits from the Project?

Energy demand in Ontario is expected to increase by 75% leading up to 2050 according to the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)<sup>1</sup>. This proposed project will help to satisfy this growing need ensuring Ontario's homes, hospitals, educational institutions, factories etc. will have enough power.

CGD will also be committing to an annual \$1,000/MW Community Benefit Agreement (so \$9,500.00 in the first year).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> More on the IESO's Long Term 2 Request for Proposal process can be found here: <a href="https://ieso.ca/Sector-Participants/Resource-Acquisition-and-Contracts/Long-Term-2-RFP">https://ieso.ca/Sector-Participants/Resource-Acquisition-and-Contracts/Long-Term-2-RFP</a>



CGD will also be paying the increased municipal tax base to the municipality which helps to fund local infrastructure.

# c. How many panels will be installed?

The project is currently in the preliminary design stages, the numbers of panels will be verified on final design, the solar site will be situated on land in which the project has land rights to build (for reference see Appendix A - "About the Project" Poster). Additionally, the current preliminary design identifies the footprint of panels (for reference see Appendix A - "Preliminary Project Design" Poster).

### d. How will notices be issued and how can we be notified of events?

Notices were mailed to all neighbours with land parcels within 500m from the proposed site and hand delivered to the neighbours immediately adjacent to the proposed site. The project will post upcoming municipal meeting attendance on the project website<sup>2</sup>.

If the proposed project is successful at securing a contract and advances to the permitting phase, neighbours will also be notified of any applications to the municipality through the municipal by-law process.

# 4) **Decommissioning**

a. Who is responsible for decommissioning and what assurances are in place that it will be completed?

As part of our lease agreement, we have a commitment to fund decommissioning midway through the life of the contract with the IESO. Therefore, the landlord will have the ability to pay for decommissioning if we go bankrupt. If we go bankrupt before year 10, our lenders, who will fund most of the project, will be obligated to honour the contract (lease) we have with the landowners.

### b. How much waste is created?

Most equipment on site by mass (solar panels, racking and foundations) are recyclable and will have value at the end of their useful life. For example, solar panels are 90% recyclable by mass.<sup>3</sup> Steel and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Golden Leaf Agrivoltaics Project Website: https://goldenleafagrivoltaics.ca/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Canadian Renewable Energy Association Fact Sheet: <a href="https://renewablesassociation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/CanREA-factsheet-Recycling-solar-panels.pdf">https://renewablesassociation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/CanREA-factsheet-Recycling-solar-panels.pdf</a>



aluminium from foundations and racking are also recyclable. Copper or aluminum used in wiring will continue to have scrap value at the end of the project life.

## c. What's the decommissioning process?

All removal of equipment will be done per the applicable regulations and manufacturer recommendations. The below summarizes the decommissioning procedure that would be enacted at the end of project life for each component.

Solar PV – Disconnect all above-ground wirings. Remove all PV modules and support structures.

Medium Voltage (MV) Stations, Substation – Disconnect and remove all electrical equipment. Remove the inverter and associated equipment. Remove high-voltage substation transformer. Remove concrete foundations for MV Stations and substation components.

Access roads and other components – Consult with the property owner to determine if access roads should be left in place for their continued use. If roads are to be removed, the aggregate materials will be excavated by a backhoe/front-end loader, along with any underlying geotextile fabric. Compacted areas restored.

# 5) Environmental impacts to neighbours

There were several questions regarding the environmental impacts of the project, summarized below. This proposed agrivoltaics project would be subject to provincial and municipal permitting, including a Renewable Energy Approval which will require several environmental studies focused on the existing environmental features and impacts from the project. On a municipal side, there will also be permits for the design and construction of the project, such as site plan approval and zoning by-law amendments.

### a. Water Table Impacts

Piles are typically 2 to 3 meters in the ground, like the other solar projects in the area, and will not impact ground water. Although, as part of the regular development process, the project will conduct a geotechnical study, this will provide insight on the site-specific sub-surface conditions.

# b. Storm Water Run-off and Design

As part of our permitting process, we will complete a storm water management plan to manage the flow of water, this storm water design will require approval from the respective permitting authorities. The project's solar panel design is currently set back 30m from the known desktop identified watercourse. There is currently a proposed access road planned as part of the preliminary



design that crosses this water course. The project will install a culvert parallel to the existing watercourse to ensure the water can follow its existing path. Prior to construction, field surveys will be conducted to identify any wetlands and watercourses, the project will ensure compliance with any additional regulatory requirements

### c. Species at Risk

As part of regular development, the project will conduct environmental species surveys on the proposed site through a third-party environmental consultant. If there are any potential for species at risk, the project will ensure regulatory approvals are obtained by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. The studies will be conducted in 2026 - post a successful contract from the IESO. These studies will be available on our project website.

Any concerns or feedback can be submitted to: info@goldenleafagrivoltaics.ca

### 6) Impact of Project to Human Health

### a. Ground Water Contamination (Cadmium)

The project will not be using thin film modules which are the ones that contain cadmium. We will be using polysilicon modules that are the most common and do not contain cadmium. Additionally solar panels do not leach chemicals.

### b. Health Impacts from Communication Towers

As part of the proposed design there will be a pole / communication tower to communicate with the Smith Falls Transformer Station. Communication towers are widely distributed everywhere across Ontario to facilitate cell phone signals. This tower will only be used to communicate with the Smith Falls Transformer station and not for any other purpose. Additionally, as shown in the preliminary design, the tower is sited at the back of the site near the tree line to ensure it's setback from any homes.

### 7. Sound from Facility

### a. During Construction

With any type of construction activity there will be short term general disturbances in the immediate vicinity. All construction activities would occur following regulations as dictated by Provincial and Municipal regulations. Construction activities would be conducted by a reputable General Contractor and are anticipated to last over a 9 to 12 month period in total.



### b. During Operations

Our projects are designed to comply with the provincial regulations on noise and our equipment will be selected to ensure we meet noise limitations as outlined by the Ministry of the Environment's "Environmental Noise Guideline – Stationery and Transportation Sources – Approval and Planning (NPC-300) for Class 3 receptors". These guidelines are differentiated for urban vs. rural environments and have different standards for noise between day and nighttime.

# 8. Monitoring and Maintenance of site

The site will be monitored remotely 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and we will be able to respond to any alarms or emergencies that may arise. Further, we will have a third-party operations and maintenance provider including landscaping that will maintain the regular day to day operations including grass levels. Additionally, sheep will continue to be grazing the fields maintaining grass levels.

# 9. What happens if CGDs goes bankrupt? Who will maintain the project?

After obtaining a contract and prior to construction, we would require third party financing. Financing of our projects are conducted by large, reputable third-party financial institutions like banks or insurance companies, and those institutions would take over the responsibilities of the project if we were to go bankrupt.

# APPENDIX A - POSTERS FROM THE PUBLIC COMMUNITY MEETING

# WELCOME TO THE PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE FOR GOLDEN LEAF AGRIVOLTAICS







# CGD's Projects in Canada



# Ontario Solar in Development Solar in Operation BESS Contracted and in Development

# Saskatchewan



In total, Compass has over 50 MW of solar and battery storage operating, under construction or contracted, and an additional 500 MW in early stages of development in ON and SK.

# 10 + years Experience in Energy Development in Ontario

- An industry leader in renewable and clean energy development across Ontario.
- We have developed over 100
   renewable energy projects in Ontario
   representing over 100 megawatts
   (MW) in the last 6 years
- Track record of success with principles that designed and launched Ontario's renewable and clean energy procurements in the public sector.
- Awarded six projects representing over 45 MW/200 MWh of battery energy storage in the last two IESO Procurements.



# Ontario's Power Needs



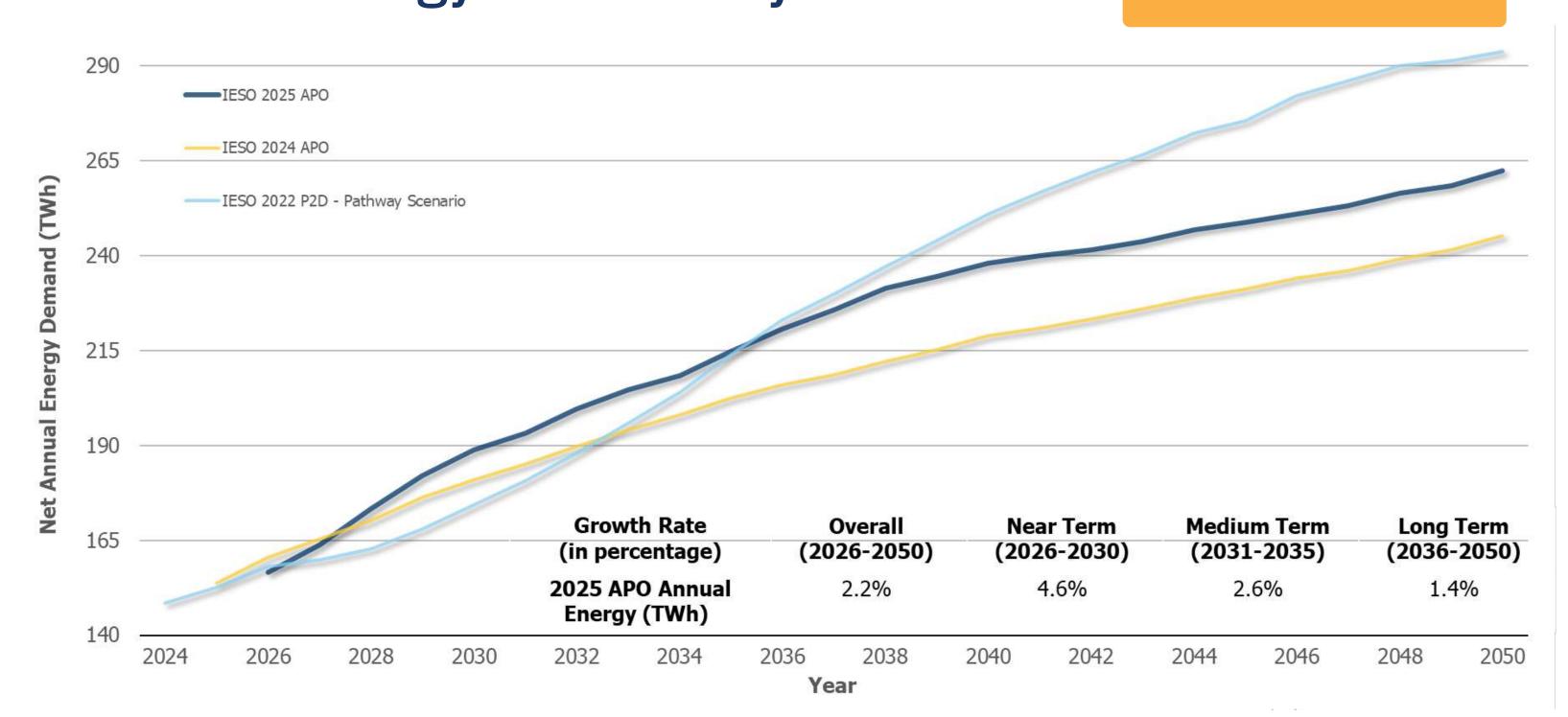


In October 2024, Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) updated its demand forecast for Ontario and indicated that it is anticipating a 75% increase in energy demand between 2025 and 2050.



# **Annual Energy Demand by Forecast**

75% Demand Growth by 2050



# What is Causing this Growth?

- Large increases in demand in the near and medium term
- Industrial sector and data centre growth are the primary drivers of new demand
- Industrial electric vehicle production and supply chain sub-sector
- Commercial sector growth, increasing population, and electrification are also continuing to escalate electricity demand across the province.

# What is Agrivoltaics?



- Agrivoltaics is dual use of land for agricultural and solar generation activities.
- Agrivoltaics is already common in Ontario, where sheep are used on several projects to maintain the vegetation on solar farms.
- The Solar Projects fenced area provides protection for the flock and the panels provide shade, while the sheep maintain the vegetation.











# About The Project



and Connection Line



Project Name

# Golden Leaf Agrivoltaics

Developer Compass Greenfield Development

Max Name Plate Capacity
Up to 9.5MWac

Property Identification Number (PIN) 05232-0010

Technology
Solar (Agrivoltaics)

Main Intersection Location **Drummond Concession 1 and Ebert Road** 

Interconnection Point

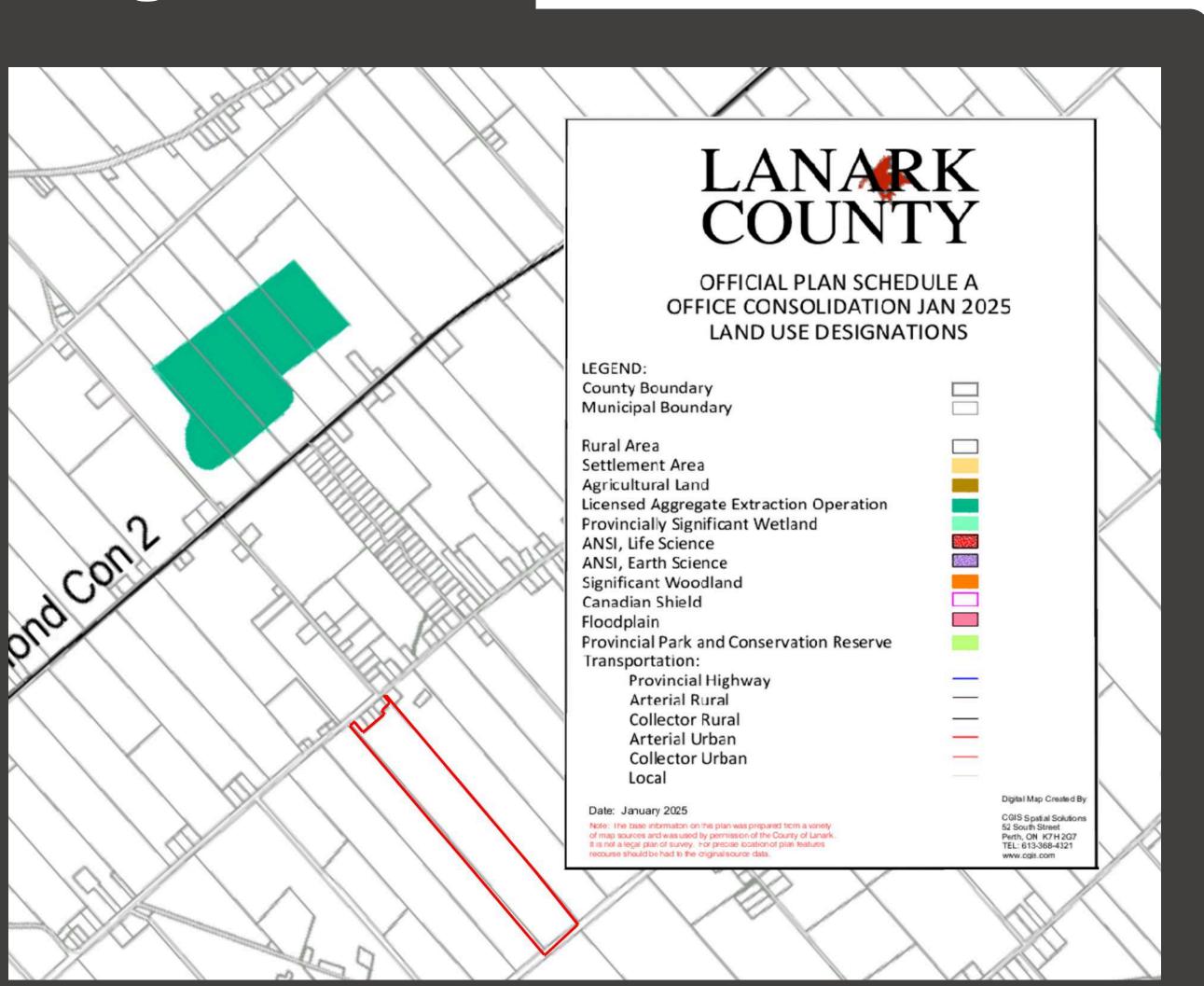
Hydro One powerlines that run along
Drummond Concession Rd 1



Project Website www.goldenleafagrivoltaics.ca

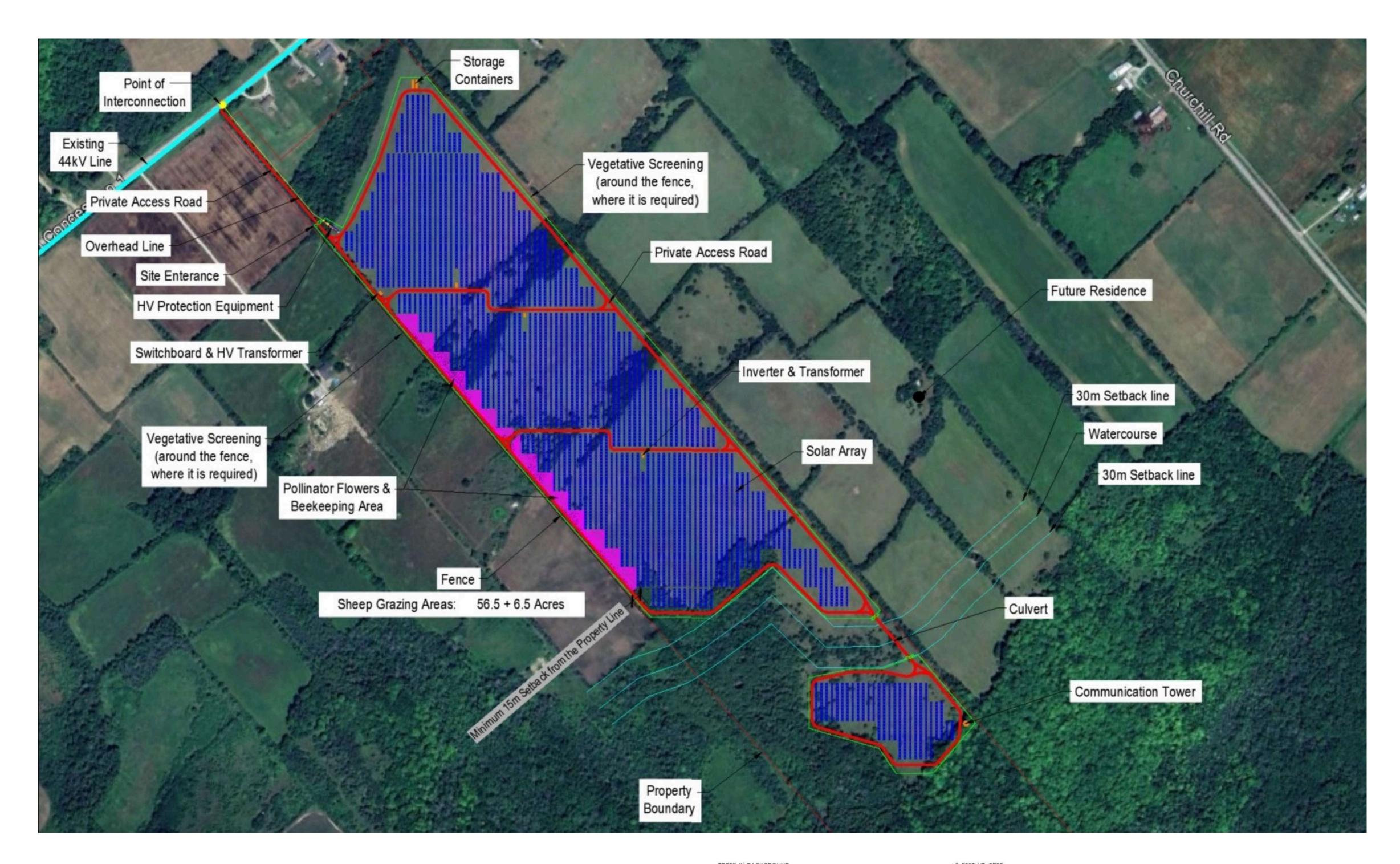
Contact info@goldenleafagrivoltaics.ca

# Official Plan Designation



# Preliminary Project Design





# **Racking Foundations**

Steel piles are screwed into the ground. At decommissioning, piles can be removed, and the land use is returned to its prior state.

# **Racking Design and Spacing**

Rows are typically 25 feet apart. The racking will either be fix-tilt or tracking.

# **Footprint Size**

55 to 80 acres.

# **Visual Screening**

Commitment to add vegetative buffer along perimeter where it doesn't already exist.

# **Security**

Project is fenced in and locked.

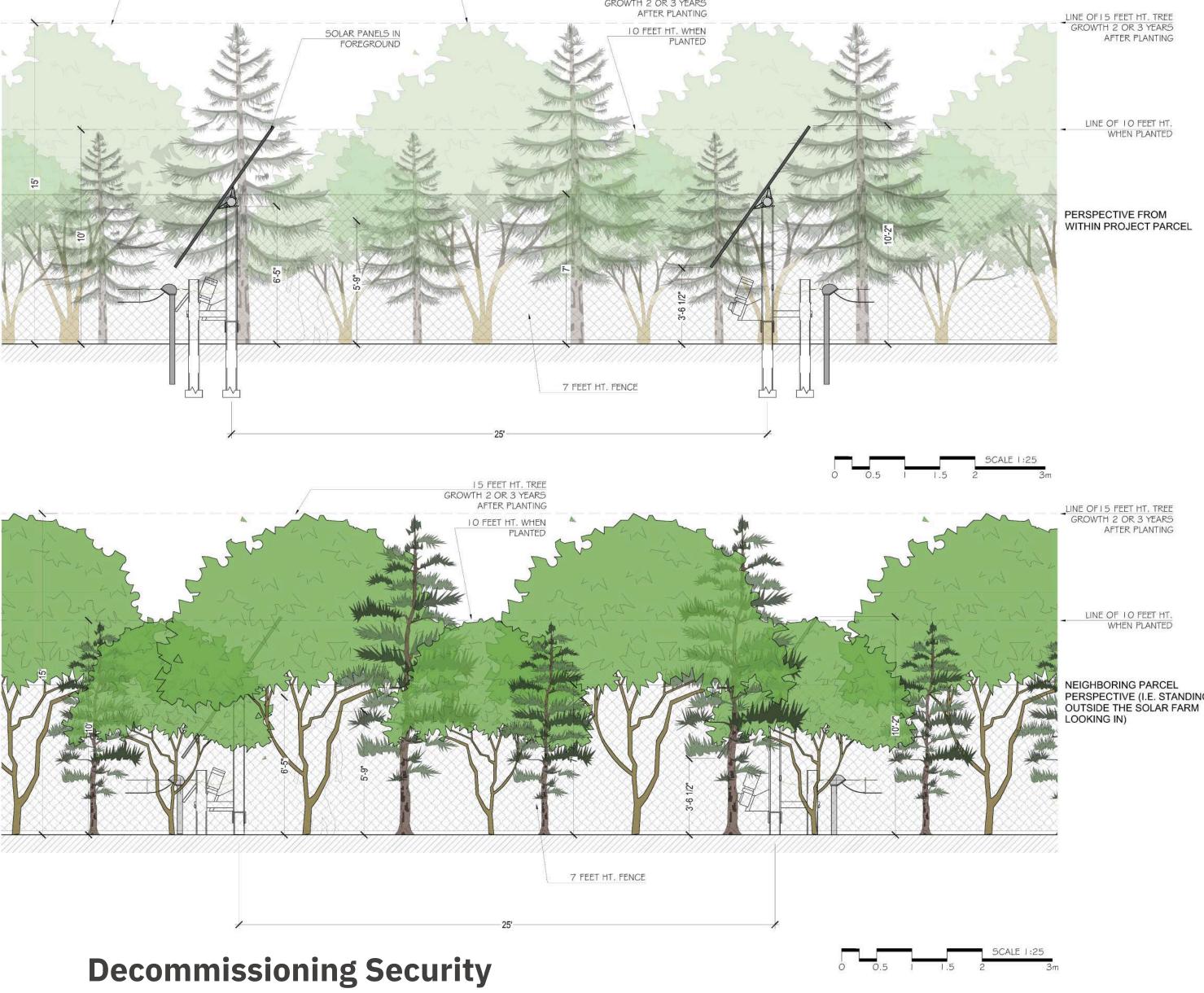
# **Operations**

Project is 24/7 remote monitored and controlled. Operations and maintenance contractors are locally based in Ontario.

Scheduled site visits occur 4 times a year.

# Interconnection

The solar system is connected to the Hydro One distribution grid.



Will be posted mid-way through the project's contract to ensure the landowner has funds to pay for decommissioning.

# **Agrivoltaics**

Golden Leaf Agrivoltaics will continue to be home for sheep farming.

# Why your Municipality?





# **Drummond/North Elmsley Official Plan**

- Promotes alternative energy systems and renewable energy systems including solar, wind and bio-mass generation.
- Parcel is not located on Prime Agricultural designated land as required by the IESO LT2 RFP Procurement.

# **Lanark County Climate Action Plan**

The 2024 Climate Action Plan Report Card Provides support for solar generation through:

- Identifying guiding principles including optimizing energy / water efficiency and increase renewable energy generation.
- Increasing the use of local and renewable energy generation and security.
- Encouraging future solar photovoltaics (PV)
   developments where suitable (for net metering
   and microgrids) and solar thermal for domestic hot
   water use

# Lanark County's Sustainable Communities Official Plan

Lanark County's OP is in line with Township of Drummond/North Elmsley:

"It is a policy of this Plan to encourage the use of alternate energy sources, such as wind, solar and energy from waste heat or gases."





# **Community Benefits**

# **Optimize Land use**

Original sheep grazing operations will remain present at the project site while solar generation is added.

# A stronger local energy grid

Distributed connected energy generators add to a municipalities electrical grid resiliency.

# Job creation, local economic stimulus

Construction will lead to a creation of jobs. On-site activity will boost the revenues of local business.

# **Community Benefit Agreement (CBA)**

CGD will commit to an annual payment of \$1,000 / MWac to the municipality. CGD will pay for any third-party costs incurred by the municipality to support this project.

Diversified income stream for local landowners Keep landownership within your municipality.

Increased tax based for the municipality

# Regulatory Compliance



Compass Greenfield Development has made careful note of the regulatory bodies that it must engage to secure the permits and approvals.

- Drummond North Elmsley Township
- Hydro One
- Ontario Ministry of Energy and Electrification
- Independent Electricity System Operator
- Ontario Ministry of Environment,
   Conservation and Parks
- Local Conservation Authorities
- Electrical Safety Authority



# Environmental Compliance

Compass Greenfield Development is committed to the health and safety of the communities we develop in and work with AHJ's to obtain and comply with permits, as such we will thoroughly study:

- Species at Risk
- Wetland and watercourses
- Sound Emissions

# Development Timeline

2025

Land Lease

**IESO Procurement** 

Engineering Design & Permitting Approvals

Commercial Operation

Decomissioning

- Permitting review
- Municipal Support
- Interconnection assessment

reach commercial

operation.

2024

**Successful developments** 

require up to five years to

- Consultation with municipality and neighbours
- IESO contract award
- Indigenous Community
   Engagement
- Provincial Permitting
- Municipal Permitting
- Electrical Permitting
- Design and construction is planned with the landowner's land-use in mind.
- Construction
- Solar array is installed
- Local electrical grid connection occurs
- Remote monitoring
- Annual maintenance

2027/2028

- Equipment is removed
- Land fully remediated
- Opportunity for recommissioning

2051+

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2026