



Benefitting the Town of Ripley and South Ripley for Decades to Come

ConnectGen is developing a commercial-scale solar and storage project in South Ripley along NE Sherman Road. ConnectGen expects to install up to 270 megawatts (MW) of solar with a 20 MW battery storage component in the area, which has the potential to power over 60,000 homes in New York State annually. The South Ripley Solar Project filed its Preliminary Scoping Statement in May 2020 and is working towards filing its New York State siting application. The target commercial operation date is Q4 2023.

Bringing a Long-Term Economic Boost to the Town of Ripley and Chautauqua County

Solar power pumps billions of dollars into the country's economy every year, particularly into rural areas, where a large percentage of large-scale solar projects are located.

The South Ripley Solar Project represents an approximately **\$350 million capital investment**, which will result in a significant increase in the Town of Ripley's and Chautauqua County's taxable property base.



Providing additional tax revenues of **more than \$490,000 annually** to the Town of Ripley, totaling **more than \$17 million** over its operational life. The increased annual revenue would comprise **over 50%** of the Town's total annual property tax levy, allowing for reduced taxes for all residents of Ripley or increased spending on public services and other critically important infrastructure.



Providing additional tax revenues of **more than \$200,000 annually** to the local school districts, which could total **more than \$7 million** over the life of the project for the Sherman and Ripley School Districts.



Providing additional revenues to the Ripley Hose Company Station 1, Ripley, and Ripley Hose Company Station 2, South Ripley, averaging **more than \$50,000 per year** and totaling **more than \$1.6 million** in payments over the project's life.



Creating up to **220 family-wage construction jobs** directly and supporting other jobs by increasing business activity among local hotels and motels, grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, equipment rentals, materials suppliers, and similar businesses.



Paying **more than \$30 million** to local landowners over the life of the project through annual lease payments, easement agreements, and good neighbor agreements, resulting in a consistent stream of revenue that can protect against fluctuating commodity prices and help maintain family farms.



Being an active participant in the local community by developing meaningful relationships that translate into **long-term partnerships** with local organizations, schools, and community members.

In Support of the South Ripley Solar Project? Let Us Know!

If you are in support of the South Ripley Solar Project and the long-term benefits it will bring to the Town of Ripley and Chautauqua County, we would love to hear from you. **Please call 1-800-388-8905 to learn about the different ways that you can show your support.**

Frequently Asked Questions

ARE SOLAR PANELS SAFE?

Yes. Solar panel materials are enclosed with glass and do not mix with water or vaporize into the air, so there is little to no risk of chemicals, including greenhouse gases, being released into the environment during normal use. Crystalline silicon PV panels, an extremely common type of solar panel used around the world, “do not pose a material risk of toxicity to public health and safety.” ConnectGen is committed to installing these types of panels to ensure safety within the community.

All solar facilities are designed to strict electrical safety standards to ensure safe operation. Product safety standards, installation requirements, and building codes for solar facilities are addressed by the National Fire Protection Agency’s National Electrical Code, the International Code Council’s International Fire Code, the International Association of Firefighters, and several other national, state and local safety and product standards groups.

ConnectGen will be fully responsible for the security of the facility and for maintaining consistent safety standards within the project area.

Prior to operation, we will develop an Emergency Response Plan in accordance with industry best practices, which will outline the response procedures to be employed should an emergency arise at the project site. We will work closely and collaboratively with local departments and authorities, including the Ripley Volunteer Fire Department, and will provide pre-construction training to all emergency response personnel.

WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THE SOUTH RIPLEY SOLAR PROJECT ONCE IT IS CONSTRUCTED?

ConnectGen will be fully responsible for maintaining the solar facilities and underlying property, including reseeding the disturbed areas with native plants and grasses that will allow flora and fauna to utilize the panel areas. Landscape maintenance at the project site will be performed by companies contracted directly by ConnectGen.

WILL PEOPLE STILL BE ABLE TO HUNT NEAR THE SOUTH RIPLEY SOLAR PROJECT?

Yes. During construction, ConnectGen will coordinate with participating landowners to ensure that hunting activities are conducted in a safe manner while construction workers are on-site. Once operational, hunting will no longer be allowed within panel areas, but landowners will be able to hunt on parcels around the project area without restriction. Limited fencing, a security measure put in place in accordance with industry best practices and local requirements, will be erected around panel areas. Collection easements between panel areas will not be fenced to allow wildlife to traverse these corridors without disruption.

* Please visit our website for more information and links to supporting citations.

DO SOLAR PROJECTS AFFECT AGRICULTURE?

Solar projects are low impact and coexist well with agriculture, operating without any impact to adjacent agricultural properties. During the solar project’s 30 year or more lifespan, the land hosting the project gets a recovery period, allowing the soil to restore fertility and rebuild. Native vegetation can grow under the panels, allowing the land to retain water and topsoil and improving soil health over time, which can increase the productivity and value of the land for agriculture in the future.

Further, ConnectGen will have a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which will outline ConnectGen’s plans for sediment and erosion controls to manage both the amount and composition of any stormwater discharged from the project site. There are no anticipated stormwater runoff issues for land hosting or adjacent to panel areas.

At the end of the solar project’s useful life, the project is decommissioned and the land can be returned to agricultural use. In addition, a solar project can offer a consistent, weather-resistant source of income for rural farmers and their local economies, providing an alternative “crop” that diversifies farmers’ revenues.

DO SOLAR PROJECTS NEGATIVELY IMPACT PROPERTY VALUES?

Property value studies conducted across the country have shown that proximity to large-scale solar projects does not measurably impact property values or deter the sale of agricultural or residential land. For example:

- A study conducted across Illinois determined that the value of properties within one mile increased by an average of two percent after the installation of a solar project.
- A study of five counties in Indiana indicated that upon completion of a solar project, properties within two miles were an average of two percent more valuable compared to their value prior to installation.
- An appraisal spanning from North Carolina to Tennessee shows that properties adjoining solar projects match the value of similar properties that do not adjoin solar projects within one percent.

Mounted solar projects are typically no more than 12 feet high, emit minimal noise, and are designed in accordance with strict electrical safety standards to ensure safe operation. In addition, we can take steps to minimize and mitigate the visual impacts of the project through vegetative buffers and setbacks from property lines.

Solar leases offer a viable, long-term revenue stream to landowners. Lease payments are stable and predictable, can protect against fluctuating commodity prices, and allow landowners to diversify their income, which can help maintain and preserve their properties.

Please Contact Us with Your Questions, Ideas, and Thoughts

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