## **Alliant Energy's**

# **Creston Solar Project**

September 2024 update

The 50-megawatt Creston Solar Project in Union County, Iowa, is part of Alliant Energy's Clean Energy Blueprint, a strategic roadmap to cost-effectively accelerate our transition to renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions. Once complete, the project will positively impact the environment and generate enough energy to power around 11,000 homes annually.

## **Construction update**

We reached a major milestone this summer with approximately 90,000 solar panels installed at the Creston Solar Project. This means construction activities are nearing completion, and we await final testing and commissioning work before we can place the project into service.

During this process we ensure the facility performs in accordance with its designed intent. Then we can confidently say the project is ready to generate energy for our customers safely and reliably, and we can place the project into operation.

We've begun land reclamation in areas of the project we won't need for solar production. This includes seeding native pollinator mixes and low-growth grasses. As these seeds take root, they'll stabilize the soil and provide water quality benefits to the region by preventing runoff.

We expect the Creston Solar Project to be operational by the end of 2024.



## Can agriculture and solar complement each other?

We invest in research to study agrivoltaics, crop or livestock production on land shared with solar panels. We work with Iowa State University and the University of Wisconsin–Madison on cutting-edge projects that will advance knowledge in this field.

"As renewable energy grows, it's important to find opportunities for these projects to benefit people beyond just providing renewable electricity," said Anne Kimber, director of ISU's Electric Power Research Center. "There's good work to be done on this front, and we hope this research and demonstration will help identify the potential for communities to benefit from agrivoltaics."

Our 10-acre project with ISU just south of Ames, Iowa, has tracking and nontracking panels at differing heights. Researchers use them to study the interrelated effects of energy, crop and beekeeping production. UW–Madison will conduct similar research on a roughly 15-acre site at its Kegonsa Research Campus.

Learn more about these efforts at alliantenergy.com/agrivoltaics.



#### Solar in the summer

As summer heat rises, so does electricity use. Air conditioners work hard to cool homes and businesses to allow us to live and work comfortably. During the summer, the time of peak demand generally coincides with peak solar energy production. That allows us and other utilities to provide the reliable service customers expect.

All the electricity we generate from the sun has zero fuel costs, and it helps us avoid running our fossil-fuel facilities for longer periods of time. It all adds up to savings we pass on directly to our customers.

Read more at alliantenergy.com/solarinsummer.

### Solar myth busting

As information – and misinformation – about renewable energy spreads, it's always a good idea to consider the source of the information and whether it's factual. We're here to help. We've already busted myths about topics like how solar panels work, barriers to participation, radiation and noise pollution.

In our latest myth-busting article, we cover the reliability and maintenance needed to keep solar panels efficient. We also discuss the steps we take to ensure sustainable development of solar projects.



Read more about these topics at alliantenergy.com/solarmyths.

#### Find out what's next

We'll share additional updates, photos and details for the Creston Solar Project throughout the construction process online at **alliantenergy.com/crestonsolar**.

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