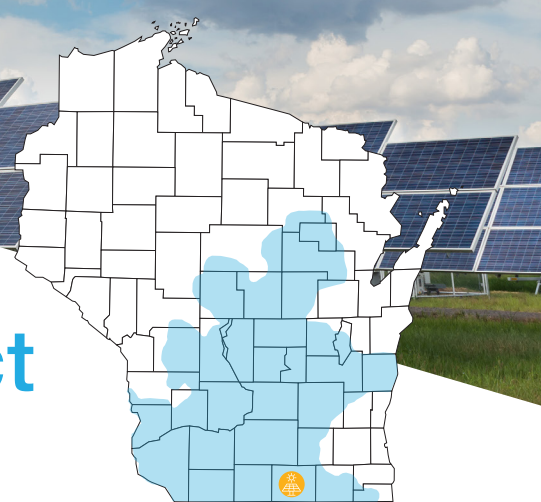


# North Rock Solar Project

## May 2022 update



The 50-megawatt (MW) North Rock Solar Project located in Rock County, Wisconsin, is part of Alliant Energy's Clean Energy Blueprint, a strategic roadmap to cost-effectively accelerate renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions. Once complete, the project will positively impact the environment and generate enough energy to power around 13,000 homes.

### Construction update

The North Rock Solar Project marked a significant milestone last month as construction crews installed the first solar panel. Once complete, the site will have nearly 120,000 solar panels.

"This first panel placement would not have been possible without the support of the community and our local construction partners," said Tim Kreft, senior manager of strategic projects at Alliant Energy. "This is an incredible milestone for Alliant Energy's solar development in Wisconsin as we continue to make smart investments in a cleaner, safer and more affordable energy future."

Piles, the metal posts that support the solar arrays, are completely installed. Crews are nearly 90% finished installing the tracking system. This system allows the panels to track the sun from a 52° angle to the east in the mornings to a 52° angle to the west in the afternoons.

Crews are also nearly 90% finished installing direct current (DC) cable, which channels the energy from the solar panels to the inverter boxes. The 14 inverters that have begun to arrive at the site convert DC electricity from the panels to alternating current (AC), which then travels to the project substation. The inverters,

spaced throughout the project, will each be fed by approximately 9,000 solar panels. The operations and maintenance staff responsible for the project after completion can monitor energy output at the inverters to find any irregularities.



The on-site project substation is 75% complete. The transformer that steps up the substation's output voltage was installed last month and will undergo testing over the next few weeks.

We expect the North Rock Solar Project to be operational in the first half of 2023.



## Learning about solar

Burns & McDonnell, the company contracted to construct the North Rock Solar Project, spoke to CareerTek in Beloit in February to explain more about solar projects and the job opportunities that come with them. CareerTek aims to promote career development in grades 6 through 12 by hosting career exploration events and other hands-on learning opportunities and activities. Burns & McDonnell gave a presentation to highlight careers in solar, engineering and construction for 60 students from Beloit and South Beloit.

In a separate event for the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers, Burns & McDonnell gave a virtual tour of the North Rock Solar Project and discussed the engineering and construction of the site. Nearly 50 engineers had the chance to learn in depth about all the work that goes into solar projects.



## Ag Matters podcast

Alliant Energy's Bill Alt joined the Ag Matters podcast on Jan. 8 to talk about the transition to renewable energy, and more specifically, the North Rock Solar Project. To listen to the 30-minute discussion with host Jim Raymond, visit [wclo.com/episode/1-8-22-solar-energy/](http://wclo.com/episode/1-8-22-solar-energy/).

## Diversifying the grid

With the demand for resilient, reliable energy ever-increasing, the role renewable sources play in the electric grid is more important than ever.

According to the International Energy Agency World Energy Outlook for 2021, energy needs worldwide will increase 30 percent by 2040. This may stress parts of the grid network that are more than a century old.

By adding renewable energy like wind and solar, we diversify the grid to increase reliability and resilience. This allows the grid to continue delivering energy when certain generation facilities may not be producing at peak levels. Learn more about these efforts at [alliantenergy.com/griddiversification](http://alliantenergy.com/griddiversification).

## Find out what's next

We'll share additional updates, photos and details for the North Rock Solar Project throughout the construction process online at [alliantenergy.com/northrocksolar](http://alliantenergy.com/northrocksolar).

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