



Are solar panels allowed in wetlands





Overview

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The Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) ensures that all wetlands that are disturbed, brought into non-aquatic use, or its function and value are significantly altered are restored or replaced. In the past, the posts/pilings that are used to install solar arrays have not been considered a wetland impact.

wetlands previously used for agriculture. However, very little is known about the relative physical impacts of solar farms versus agricultural use such as haying. By gathering data on these relative impacts we can inform our policy, best management developments in wet meadow type wetlands. Surveys.

As wetlands now cover less than 6% of the lower 48 states – half of what existed in the 1780s according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data – developers must carefully consider these ecosystems during site selection and design. While wetlands can present complex challenges for solar projects.

Generally, the DNR states, project proposals should avoid siting solar farms in wetlands. Nevertheless, the proliferation of solar projects has resulted in more instances of project areas that contain wetlands being selected as locations where solar energy facilities are developed. Solar projects.

The Division of Land Resource Protection supports solar panel projects which aid in limiting dependence on non-renewable energy sources. In an effort to limit impacts to the State's natural environment, the Division encourages the siting of solar projects within developed areas of the State. Solar.

This policy sets forth the Department's approach for reviewing ground-mounted solar photovoltaic systems relative to wetland jurisdiction. MGL c. 131, s. 40: Wetlands Protection Act ("Act") and 310 CMR 10.00. MGL c. 21, s. 27:



Massachusetts Water Quality Certification regulations, 314 CMR 9.00. MGL.

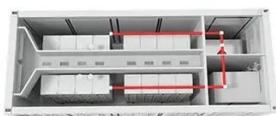


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[Navigating Wetlands and Their Impact on Utility ...](#)

Wetlands have two major types: non-jurisdictional and jurisdictional. Non-jurisdictional wetlands are typically smaller and less ...



MassDEP Wetlands Program Policy 17-1: Photovoltaic System Solar ...

Placement of PVSs within jurisdictional wetlands is highly discouraged. Placement of PVSs within wetland buffer zones may be permissible with proper oversight of the issues ...

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If a waterbody is located nearby, flow from the construction area and flow paths from established solar panels should be allowed to infiltrate the soil in created wetlands (vernal pools or swales) ...



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For these reasons, we recommend that solar facilities be sited in areas that are previously disturbed (fallow fields, closed industrial sites, etc.) or sites that do not impact ...



[Evaluating Solar Panel Effects on Wetlands](#)

Evaluating solar panel effects on wetlands reveals important insights for preserving natural habitats and promoting green energy.



Navigating Wetlands and Their Impact on Utility-Scale Solar Design

Wetlands have two major types: non-jurisdictional and jurisdictional. Non-jurisdictional wetlands are typically smaller and less regulated. You'll need to check with your ...



[Solar Development in Agricultural Wetlands](#)

on Wetlands Program December 2021 Purpose: As demand for solar energy increases, so have permit applications to install solar panels in wetlands previously used for agriculture. However, ...



[BWSR guidance makes solar projects more wetland-friendly](#)



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[Wetlands Protection Act and Section 401 Permitting Process](#)

Solar projects are required to meet the general performance standards for work within wetland resource areas and should be sited outside of wetland resource areas whenever possible.



[RHODE ISLAND EPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ...](#)

When proposing solar arrays adjacent to Freshwater Wetlands, panels should be designed so they will not be shaded (now or in the future) by trees located in freshwater wetlands or ...



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