



# **Coyote Road Solar Community Engagement Memo**

Prepared by the Coyote Road Solar, LLC Team  
For Tazewell County, Illinois Special Use Permit Application

May 3, 2024

The purpose of this memo is to provide Tazewell County Board members with some background on the effort made to date by the Coyote Road Solar team to build support for the project in the community.

Our team is proud of the effort and progress made. We are excited to share this information and thought that it would be best communicated through this memo.

We hope that this memo provides further insight into RWE's approach to design & implementation, and our intent of being an engaged community member of Tazewell County. We hope to demonstrate that our commitment is not just during development but throughout the lifetime of Coyote Road Solar.

For additional questions about Project development or community engagement, please contact Eli Varol at either 773.220.6823 or [eli.varol@rwe.com](mailto:eli.varol@rwe.com).

Thanks & Regards,



Eli Varol, RWE Development Manager



Haniah Davis, RWE Community Engagement Manager



Joon Park, RWE Development Director

Below is an outline of Coyote Road Solar’s stakeholder and public outreach conducted to date. This section provides context as to community involvement and opinions that RWE considered in developing the utility-scale solar farm in Tazewell County, Illinois.

***Regional Development & Community Organizations***

- Ameren
- Greater Peoria Economic Development Council
- Pekin Chamber of Commerce
- East Peoria Chamber of Commerce
- Tazewell County Farm Bureau
- Illinois Central College, Solar Pipeline Program students and staff
- Central Illinois Building & Construction Trades Council
- Unions: Great Plains LECET, LiUNA & Local 231, Carpenters and Millwrights, IBEW, and Operators
- Heart of Illinois Sierra Club
- Community Foundation of Central Illinois
- Pheasants Forever

***Government and Elected Officials***

- All state representatives & state senators representing our project area
- Tazewell County Board members
- Delavan Mayor & City Administrator
- Delavan Township Road Commissioner
- Malone Township Road Commissioner
- Village of San Jose President & Village Trustees
- Tazewell County Highway Engineer
- Tazewell County Community Development Department
- Tazewell County Soil & Water Conservation District
- San Jose Fire Department
- Delavan CUSD #703
- Illini Central School District
- Mason County Board

***Neighbor Outreach***

- Neighbor outreach was conducted with the goal of becoming good neighbors with all adjacent landowners.
- 7 adjacent, non-participating residential neighbors were identified and we have been able to meet with and achieve a positive understanding with all.
- Design adjustments that go beyond the Tazewell County Ordinance requirements were made to accommodate neighbors, including additional setbacks, additional vegetative screening, wildlife corridors, and entrance locations
- Hosted local Open House event on January 30 in Delavan.

### ***Community Donations, Memberships and Sponsorships***

- More than \$70,000 in donations & sponsorships already provided or committed
- Donations:
  - The Foundation to Reimagine Mason City
  - Delavan CUSD #703 Chromebook Donation – ~150 Chromebooks
  - Ayer Public Library
- Sponsorships
  - Pekin Marigold Festival
  - Boys & Girls Club Pekin Christmas Party
  - Center for Prevention of Abuse Annual Duck Race
  - KidWind program for Illini Central School District
  - KidWind program for Delavan CUSD #703
  - Arlee Theatre Summer Family Series
- Memberships
  - Greater Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce
  - East Peoria Chamber of Commerce
  - Greater Peoria Economic Development Council
- Planned Commitments
  - Community Benefits Agreement or long term fund or endowment contributions to the Community Foundation of Central Illinois
    - Annual giving over a 40 year period

### ***Public Engagement***

- Clean Grid Alliance Solar 101 Workshop – 11/19/2024
- Coyote Road Solar Open House – 01/30/2024
- Illinois Central College Solar Pipeline Job Fair – 03/13/2024
- Tazewell County Supporting Solar RWE Event – 04/30/2024
- Fire Department Solar Safety Training – Date TBD
- Signature petition campaign yielding Tazewell County residents in support of Coyote Road Solar

## Project References

### Overview

#	Project	County, State	Size/Tech	COD*
1	Hickory Park	Mitchell County, Georgia	195.5 MW solar, 40 MW, 2-hr storage	Jun 2022
2	Wildcat	Tipton & Madison Counties, Indiana	200 MW wind	Dec 2012
3	Scioto	Hardin & Logan Counties, Ohio	249 MW wind 110 MW solar & 20 MW, 6- hr storage in development	Jun 2021
4	Prairie Creek	Blackford County, Indiana	300 MW wind, 250 MW solar in development	2025 – wind 2029 - solar
5	Radford Run	Macon County, IL	306 MW wind	Dec 2017

\*Commercial Operation Date (when project became operational)

#### 1 - Hickory Park Solar + Storage (Mitchel County, GA)

- Project Overview: <https://www.rwe.com/en/press/rwe-renewables/2022-06-23-rwes-us-hickory-park-solar-project-with-co-located-storage-facility-in-operation/>
- RWE Operations POC: Jason Jackson, 815-822-4195, jason.jackson@rwe.com
- County Official POCs: Russell Moody, Mitchell County Commissioner, 229-336-2060; Michael Jones, Fire Chief, 229-787-5229

#### 2 - Wildcat Wind (Tipton & Madison Counties, IN)

- Project Overview: The Wildcat Wind Farm was RWE’s first renewable energy project in Indiana. 125 GE 1.6 megawatt turbines provide more than 200 MW of power – enough to provide clean power to more than 60,000 households.
- Landowner Testimonial: <https://inacre.org/know-before-you-build-rural-landowners-and-renewable-energy/wind-turbines-rick-jarret/>
- RWE Operations POC: James Auler, 765-507-1143, james.auler@rwe.com
- County Official POC: Nancy Cline, Tipton County Commissioner, 765-513-0541, ncline@tiptoncounty.in.gov

### 3 - Scioto (Hardin & Logan Counties, OH)

- Project Overview: <https://www.rwe.com/en/press/rwe-renewables/2021-06-02-rwes-us-onshore-wind-farm-scioto-ridge-in-operation/>
- Landowner Testimonial: [RWE01\\_SciotoRidge\\_v2.mp4](#)
- RWE Operations POC: Jared Halker, jared.halker@rwe.com
- County Official POC: Luke Underwood, Hardin County Engineer, 419-674-2222, [hardineng@hardincountyohio.gov](mailto:hardineng@hardincountyohio.gov)
- Note: *Please be sensitive when contacting county officials about the Scioto project, as the solar + storage phase is currently in the Ohio permitting application process*

### 4 - Prairie Creek Wind + Solar (Blackford County, IN)

- Project Overview: In 2023, Blackford County approved RWE's 300 MW Prairie Creek Wind Farm, which will become operational in 2025. Blackford County has reviewed and approved several other wind and solar projects, and RWE is developing a 250 MW solar component to the Prairie Creek project for the county's review.
- RWE Operations POC: N/A – not yet operational
- County Official POCs: Anne Owen, Blackford County Building Commissioner, 765-348-3884; Warren Brown, Blackford County Economic Development Director, 765-348-4944, 765-278-7345, [warren@blackfordindiana.com](mailto:warren@blackfordindiana.com)

### 5 - Radford's Run Wind Farm (Macon County, IL)

- Project Overview: Macon County, Illinois, [Onshore wind projects and locations | RWE in the Americas](#)
- RWE Operations POC: O&M Manager, Bobby Owens, bobby.owens@rwe.com
- Press: [E.ON dedicates Radford's Run Wind Farm \(windpowerengineering.com\)](#)

## **Other Illinois Solar Projects**

### **1 – Buffalo Solar** (Grundy County, IL) - [Buffalo Solar Farm | RWE in America](#)

- Project Overview: 116MW, 138kV, 960 acres, ComEd / PJM territory, Illinois Power Agency contract to sell power.
- Status: Awaiting construction mobilization
- Operations begins: December 2025

### **2 – Casey Fork Solar** (Jefferson County, IL)

- Project Overview: 150MW, 345kV, 2,132 acres, Ameren / MISO territory, Illinois Power Agency contract to sell power.
- Status: Awaiting construction mobilization
- Operations begins: December 2025

### **3 –County Run Solar** (Clark, Cumberland & Coles Counties, IL)

- Project Overview: 273MW, 345kV, 1,818 acres, Ameren / MISO territory, Illinois Power Agency contract to sell power.
- Status: Awaiting construction mobilization
- Operations begins: October 2025

### **4 –Champaign Solar** (Champaign County, IL)

- Project Overview: 1.6 MW, 13 acres, community solar design.
- Status: Operational
- Operations began: 2020