



Greensburg Solar Community Engagement Memo

Prepared by the Greensburg Solar, LLC Team
For Decatur County, Indiana Special Exception Permit Application

Table of Contents

Purpose.....	2
Development & Outreach Timeline	3
Questions & Answers	6
Project References.....	15
Project Testimonial	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide Decatur County decisionmakers with answers to questions we have commonly heard during our community outreach efforts. In addition, this document includes a timeline of our engagement efforts in the Decatur County area over the past four years, since we began developing the Greensburg Solar Project in 2020.

In the spirit of transparency, we hope that this memo provides further insight into solar energy technology, RWE’s approach to design and implementation, and our intent of being an engaged community member of Decatur County, not just during development but throughout the lifetime of Greensburg Solar.

For additional questions about Project development or community engagement, please contact Francisco Galeano, Senior Developer.

Development & Outreach Timeline

Below is an outline of Greensburg Solar’s development, stakeholder, and public consultation timeline—spanning from initial green fielding and leasing efforts in 2020, to current mid-stage development in early 2024. This section provides context as to community involvement and opinions that RWE considered in developing the utility-scale solar farm in Decatur County, Indiana.

2020

Year in review:

Work on the Greensburg Solar project began in July 2020, which meant that the initial task was navigating the challenging conditions posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We were able to work with a group of land agents, who themselves held calls with landowners while sitting in their barns. By the end of the year, we were able to execute leases representing ~1,000 acres.

2021

Year in review:

2021 saw further activity on the real estate front, as well as achievement of a project milestone: in July of that year, Greensburg Solar was submitted to the MISO interconnection queue. The significance of this milestone lies in the fact that the interconnection agreement allows the company to connect to the grid and inject electricity into the system during the period of operations. It takes many years for the MISO grid operator to review a project before agreeing to connect it to the grid.

Lastly, RWE commenced collaboration with the *Center for Economic Development*.

2022

Year in review:

Having secured land and established a project footprint, RWE hired third party experts to perform environmental, archeological, and cultural studies of the project site. As was expected from preliminary desktop analyses, no challenges resulted from these studies.

2023

Year in review:

The main focus in 2023 was preparing and submitting the Special Exception application with Decatur County. This, together with the Interconnection Agreement mentioned above, are considered to be the most important documents during project development.

Permit application has consisted of active collaboration with Area Planning, the Board of Commissioners, Decatur County Council, and other stakeholders involved in evaluating the merits of the project and making the ultimate decision regarding permit issuance.

RWE has proactively engaged officials to address their questions or concerns, provide transparent and realistic insight to the project's development, and its estimated benefits to the community

The company has also reached out and worked collaboratively with abutting landowners. The main goals of this effort was to provide accurate information about the project, as well as to design a project that minimizes disturbances to these LOs. Input from these one on one meetings has been provided to our engineering consultant and will serve as the basis for continuing project design.

The following example encapsulates all of the stages of RWE's work with project neighbors. Based on the project boundaries, we identified abutting properties with the goal of having one on one meetings with every landowner in the project area before hearings with the Board of Zoning Appeals. We wanted to consider landowner concerns regarding viewshed, setbacks, construction and environmental impacts in our project design, development process, and final site plan. These accommodations would then be included as part of our permit application submitted to Decatur County officials.

Some abutting landowners were contacted by the developer throughout earlier stages of development. However, our formal neighbor outreach campaign ran from October 2023 until February 2024 and is outlined below. Through this campaign, we were able to gauge neighbor concerns and work to address concerns directly into the project design and plan.

October 2023: Formal outreach conducted

- 28 abutting and adjacent neighbors received a letter, call, and doorhanger notifying them of RWE Clean Energy's utility-scale solar development project in their area.

November: Outreach continues

- Neighbors that responded to RWE communication were spoken to
- Continued neighbor outreach by conducting individual and collective meetings with abutting neighbors
- Heard specific concerns and questions of neighbors so RWE could work to create a project design that addressed them
- Concerns included: vegetative management, construction schedule and logistics

December: Neighbor negotiations began

- Neighbors received maps of the project's buildable area and proximity to their property
- RWE presented neighbors with an example contract for neighbors to include their concerns in writing
- Neighbors received third party research that addressed topics of concern such as: solar farms and agriculture, glare from panels, property value, and solar energy in Indiana

January 2024: *neighbor negotiations continued*

- Contracts
- Visual renderings shared with neighbors in order to provide a realistic example of the project and its proximity to their homes

Commencement of Community Contributions

As a project owner-operator, RWE values the opportunity to become an engaged community member in Decatur County and understands the importance of community volunteering and outreach opportunities, financial contributions, and learning opportunities for students and teachers in the local school system. We intend to go above and beyond simply providing tax revenue from our project, and we are committed to Decatur County as a long-term local business and community contributor.

Supporting the Greensburg Community Learning Center

- \$5,000 donation—Jim Cummings, the Center’s Director, expressed a need for additional funding and donations following COVID-19 and the challenges faced by students and staff.

Greensburg Community Foundation Partner

- In December 2023, we met with the Greensburg Community Foundation to explore establishing an RWE endowment, community benefits agreement, or unrestricted fund—this is an ongoing process

2024

Planned activities:

Outreach to the local school Superintendent to offer renewable energy education programs, free of charge to the school system. RWE Clean Energy, the parent company of Greensburg Solar, is a proud sponsor of KidWind, a nonprofit organization supporting wind and solar power education. KidWind has been a national leader in renewable energy education for youth, educators, and community members for almost 20 years. Through their workshops, competitions, and training programs, they use hands-on tools, learning, and experiences to share their passion for renewable energy technology and expose people to industry career opportunities and STEM education. We look forward to contributing to the community by sponsoring this program county-wide.

Questions & Answers

What is solar energy?

Solar energy has become one of the most affordable and reliable sources of electricity available today. Solar farms increase the resilience of Indiana's electric grid while protecting consumers from the volatility and rising costs of traditional energy sources, such as coal or natural gas.

Photovoltaic (PV) solar energy generation is an established and successful technology. A solar farm uses multiple PV solar panels to turn sunlight into electricity. Electricity flows through inverters and transformers before connecting to the local power lines. Utility-scale solar farms range in size from 300 to 3,000+ acres. A solar farm can power approximately 170 average-sized homes per megawatt of capacity.¹

Due to technology improvements and industry growth, the cost of electricity from solar farms has dropped 89% in the past decade,² making it one of the most cost-effective sources of electricity.³ The reliability of these projects allows companies such as RWE to commit to lease payments to landowners for up to 40 years. Solar panels have an incredibly low failure rate. Better understanding of photovoltaic technology in recent years has pushed the projected lifespan of utility-scale solar projects to even beyond 40 years.

More than 149 gigawatts (GW) of solar capacity has been installed nationwide, supplying electricity to power more than 26 million American homes⁴. Solar currently comprises 54 percent of all new energy generating capacity in the United States. PV solar projects have been successfully operating in Indiana and throughout the country for many years.

Why aren't you developing solar on landfills or brownfield sites?

RWE does consider such sites. For example, RWE is currently developing solar projects in the vicinity of reclaimed coal mines in Indiana and Illinois. Landfills and brownfields are usually quite small in acreage and do not provide the required size for large, utility-scale solar projects. Also, they are not always near a transmission line and would require many miles of expensive, complex electrical lines to connect to the grid.

When you say inside and outside the fence, how far is the fence from the property line?

We sited the solar farm so that there is 16 feet (wide enough to drive a truck through) between the outer edge of the solar panels and the Project fence. There is a 10-foot-wide mowed area immediately outside the fence, between the fence and the vegetative screen or agricultural crops.

Decatur County calls for a minimum 70-foot setback from the centerline of roads to the outside edge of any structure (in our case the solar panels). Therefore, the standard

¹ EPA Avoided Emissions and Generation Tool, based on Decatur County, IL average home electricity consumption

² <https://hdr.undp.org/content/human-development-report-2021-22>

³ 2023 Levelized Cost Of Energy+ | Lazard

⁴ <https://www.seia.org/solar-industry-research-data>

distance to the Project fence is 54 feet from the centerline of roads, and then solar panels are at least 70 feet from the centerline of roads. In many cases, the Project fence distance to the property line exceeds these standards.

What is a realistic setback accommodation for neighbors not in support of the County's 15 feet requirement?

A combination of additional setback distances and vegetative screening are being used to address the concern of neighbors in the vicinity of the solar facilities. RWE is considering setbacks in certain areas of the project of up to 250 feet. Please see the Site Plan for details.

Do solar farms decrease property value?

Multiple studies have been conducted across the United States, which include surveys to property value assessors, housing sales occurring within one mile of a solar facility, including parcels directly adjacent to projects, in multiple states and in both rural and urban locations, among others. These studies have found no negative impact to residential home values.⁵

What are the benefits to non-participating neighbors and landowners?

The benefits to non-participating landowners come through the tax revenues created by the value of the project investment and the step-up in property value from agriculture land to utility distributable land. Depending on how the County chooses to direct these funds, they could translate to new works (for example, infrastructure improvements), or reduced taxes for taxpayers.

How does RWE choose a project location?

Project development considers a number of factors:

1. Proximity to high voltage transmission lines with available capacity for new electrical generation.
2. Suitable quantity, quality, and availability of land.
3. Community support
4. Acceptable use of land under local, state, and federal regulations.

Does a solar farm have to be near a substation?

It is not necessary, but it is the best case scenario in order to avoid a long gen-tie (connecting electrical line) and electrical losses.

Will BESS require the same amount of land as a solar farm?

No. The requirements of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) are different. A battery does not generate electricity; it gets charged, and discharged back to the grid, so it only

⁵ https://cleanpower.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Solar-and-Property-Values-Fact-Sheet_2.2.22.pdf

requires space to fit the charging/discharging equipment, which takes up significantly less footprint than solar panels.

How many panels are there per acre?

Based upon the current layout and the technology, there are approximately 225 panels per acre⁶.

Do panels make noise?

Panels themselves do not make noise, as they do not contain any moving parts or electrical components that can produce sound.

Panels are mounted on a tracker system that follows the trajectory of the sun. However, these mechanisms turn $\frac{3}{4}$ of a turn over a period of 12 hours, on average. This speed makes sound nearly imperceptible.

Do panels impact the health of livestock?

No, they do not. Panels are made of :

- Glass sheets
- Aluminum framing
- Cabling
- Silicon-based cell and sealant. Each cell is ~6" x6"

Is there a transformer after the inverter?

Yes. The sequence of components is as follows:

1. Panel
2. String (many panels connected)
3. Combiner box (many strings connected)
4. Inverter. Converts direct current (like the batteries in your TV remote) to alternating current (like the one from a plug on the wall). It also has a transformer that increases voltage to Medium Voltage.
5. Main Power Transformer. Increases voltage to the level at which the substation operates.

Does EMF harm animals and neighbors?

Electrical appliances need magnetic frequency in order for electricity to power them. The electromagnetic frequency (EMF) generated by a solar facility is called "non-ionizing,"

⁶ Figures based on a capacity of 8MW/acre and the installation of 550W panels

meaning at a very low level. Other examples of equipment that emit EMF are televisions, microwaves, and cellphones.

Example of EMF from Common Appliances compared to EMF of Power Lines (in Greensburg Solar’s case, 138 kV power lines that already exist in Decatur County)⁷

Table 1 Magnetic Fields from Common Appliances

Magnetic Field Strength (Milligauss - mG)		
Appliances*	At 10 - 12 Inches	At Working Distance (19 - 22 Inches)
Microwave	17 - 236	5 - 28
Electric range	1.8 - 2.9	0.4 - 10
Refrigerator	1.3 - 15.7	0.6 - 11.4
Color TV	3.5 - 18.6	0.9 - 8.2
Fluorescent light	1.2 - 56.7	0.3 - 15
Ceiling fan	0.3 - 49.5	0.0 - 6
Power Tools	At 1 - 4 Inches	At Working Distance (12 - 20 Inches)
Cordless drill	8	5 - 8
Table saw	760 (at motor)	12
Plunge router	300	30
Power Lines**	At Center Line	At 40 Feet
46 kV (138 amps)	9.6	3.7
69 kV (167 amps)	23	7
115 kV (90 amps)	15	5.5
138 kV (300 amps)	39	17
345 kV (628 amps)	95.8	56.4

Sources:
 Appliances - Survey of Residential Magnetic Field Sources, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), September 1993.
 Power tools - Actual measurements by author.
 Power lines - Data comes from actual transmission construction cases.

* For appliances, EMF measurements will vary between make and model.
 ** For power lines, many variables affect EMF strength: the amount of current, distance from the wires, and the line configuration (how wires are placed in relation to one another). Current flow depends on how much electricity is being used by customers on that line. Use will vary with time of day, time of year, and kind of line. For example, a 138 kV line is generally capable of carrying a maximum of 1,566 amps but normal current flow is much lower. The example in the table is for an existing 138 kV line where 300 amps is the normal current flow.

Is agrivoltaics an option? How can neighbors, community members, and RWE work together to advocate for this option?

RWE will work in conjunction with Decatur County’s Soil & Water Conservation District on a long-term plan to maintain soil quality, and control erosion, among other things. It will also explore dual-use of land, which includes deployment of agrivoltaics (farming solar energy and agricultural crops alongside each other).

Regarding vegetative screening, why isn’t it required to be higher than the maximum height of panels?

It is unclear to RWE why the ordinance did not provide guidance on that specific point. However, the ordinance states that the Project needs to “minimize visual impact of Solar Energy Facilities”⁸

How is the soil prepared and maintained under the panels?

The following is an excerpt from the Project’s Vegetation Management Plan:

⁷ Based on ESDA and Wisconsin Public Service Commission EMF Study [UWP_WI64-Dairyland_CapXHRLC_FEIS-AppH.pdf](http://www.usda.gov) (usda.gov)

⁸ Section 2000 – Purpose and Intent. Point #3, page 1.

Any site preparation should maintain compliance with the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan and the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The preference is to install and establish this seed mix prior to construction. The advantages of site preparation and seeding prior to construction include:

- Allows the seed to cover and germination across 100% of the Project area.
- Is significantly less time consuming, therefore less expensive.
- Eliminates the potential of damage to solar infrastructure by seeding equipment.
- Allows quicker establishment of the root systems which facilitates better drainage that lessens mud and rutting.
- Provides a turf that holds down dust that is hard on construction equipment.

In summary, seeding prior to construction can facilitate more extensive vegetation cover, requires less technical operation of seeding equipment, is less expensive, minimizes damage to solar infrastructure, and improves construction conditions by making it less muddy and dusty.

What about glare and heat? Is that a factor living near solar farms?

Solar panels are designed to absorb light and radiation, rather than reflect it. Because of this, the associated glare is comparable to that from the surface of a lake. There are numerous solar farms operating safely surrounding airports, so the solar farm should not impact the operation of vehicles or equipment nearby.

Who is responsible for maintaining the land around the solar farm (outside the fence)? Will weed management and landscaping be the responsibility of neighbors?

The Project is responsible for maintaining vegetation inside the leased area, whether it is inside or outside the fence. Any area not leased, but still within property lines, is owned by the parcel owner and can continue to be used by the landowner for traditional agricultural activities.

Do panels get changed out over the years as technology improves?

This is unlikely. The panels are a significant part of the investment in the project and an early replacement would prevent cost recovery. Further, warranties on the panels ensure that they produce the same amount of electricity for at least 25 years.

What is a decommissioning plan and security?

The decommissioning plan is an agreement signed by the County and the project, whereby the project acquires the obligation to remove all equipment when the project stops operating and outlines the steps that would be taken to do so.

The plan is accompanied by a decommissioning security, which is a financial guarantee that sits with the County, which can be used to pay to decommission the project if the owner (in

this case RWE) is not able to meet its obligation for any reason. Because of inflation and depreciation, the security is revised every 5 years.

How much wind can panels withstand?

Most panels can withstand winds between 120 and 150 mph. This testing is performed in what is considered a critical position, which means winds blow on the back of panels that are tilted.

Solar farms continuously monitor weather data, and are designed to stow panels in a horizontal position at night and during very strong wind conditions to minimize impact.

Will hail destroy a solar farm?

Hail impact can damage glass panels (which are replaced, if damaged), but does not damage mounting structures or other components (for example, transformers). To minimize impacts from hail, panels are stowed in a near vertical position during hail conditions. Panel replacement and constant maintenance allows solar projects to remain in continuous operation.

What happens to panels when it snows?

In very heavy snow, panels will be stowed in a near vertical position; however, the tilt throughout the day typically sheds snow, and panels can be tilted vertically to remove snow. The sun can melt snow off of panels, and snow can actually help clean panels for better production.⁹

Where are panels produced?

Most panels are currently produced abroad, and the largest portion still comes from China. There are solar panel manufacturers in the U.S., and this is growing with the 2022 passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, but they cannot currently cover total demand from United States projects.

How often are panels damaged?

On a 150 MW project containing roughly 400,000 panels, the most common cause of equipment failure is flying rocks due to lawn mowers used in vegetation maintenance. Once a panel is damaged, the data is immediately communicated to our 24/7 monitoring team and the panel will be replaced by the project's operations team as soon as possible.

Are RWE application documents available for public review?

Once submitted, RWE's application is available on file with the Decatur County Area Plan Commission. In addition, we can provide copies at any landowner's individual request.

Will water or soil be ruined by potentially harmful or faulty panels?

Solar cells, each of which is ~6' x 6' in size (made of solid, non-leaking semiconductor materials like silicon, which is made up of the same minerals as glass), are coated in

⁹ <https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/let-it-snow-how-solar-panels-can-thrive-winter-weather>

protective material. Cells are mounted on a structure made up of supporting panels and glass, within an aluminum frame. Panels themselves are mounted on racking systems, which sit several feet above the ground.

Are panels recyclable?

Yes, they can be recycled where facilities are available. The technology and infrastructure involved in solar panel recycling is expanding rapidly in the United States.

What is the construction timeline?

For a facility the size of the Greensburg Solar project, construction is expected to last approximately 12-15 months .

Can we compare the dust and noise caused during construction to the disruption during harvest season?

It is comparable, but as construction progresses it becomes less disruptive, similar to what would be experienced during building construction site preparation (intensive, dusty, etc.) to final component installation (minimally disruptive). In other words, the 12-15 month period does not comprise 12-15 months of earth work.

When will the project be greenlit?

Several development steps remain even after zoning permitting, primarily finalization of the interconnection agreement (the agreement that allows the project to plug into the grid), advanced engineering, equipment procurement, etc. The project is expected to begin construction in Q3-Q4 2025 and begin operations in late 2026.

Will RWE send out drones around the project area to scope things out?

Drones are primarily used for, and limited to, thermal monitoring of solar panels. Once the project is in operations, flyovers are conducted once a year to assess the facility.

Will the Greensburg Solar project lead to loss of agriculture jobs in Decatur County?

Jobs in agriculture are not jeopardized by the relatively small amount of land being used temporarily for solar panels. The increased revenue being generated by the solar lease payments helps provide income security for the farmers that choose to be involved. This reliable income may be used to invest in their continued farming activities on other lands and in the community. Further, roughly 300 construction jobs and four ongoing operations jobs will be created by the Greensburg Solar Project.

For the duration of the lease does RWE obtain water or mineral rights?

RWE does obtain water and mineral rights. However, the focus of solar farms is electricity generation, so those rights are not exercised for the project.

How much water does it take to maintain panels?

According to Solar Energy Industries Association, solar farms use a modest amount of water (approximately 20 gallons per megawatt-hour) for cleaning solar collection and

reflection surfaces like photovoltaic (PV) panels. For comparison, a typical family uses about 20,000 gallons of water each year, more than the amount of water needed per MW of photovoltaic generation capacity.¹⁰

How was the project size determined?

Three factors (among others) are taken into consideration when determining project acreage:

1. Project capacity (140MW in the case of Greensburg project)
2. Acreage per unit of capacity. On average, 8-9 acres are needed per MW of capacity (~1,100 - ~1,300)
3. Land conditions. Depending on land features (slopes, wetlands, etc.) a margin of ~10% is added

The project is not expected to occupy more than ~1,100 acres

How can RWE provide assurance to neighboring landowners that the solar facility is not causing water contamination in the surrounding areas?

The solar facility equipment that comes into contact with the ground consists of galvanized steel and PVC piping. RWE uses silicon-based solar panels (as opposed to cadmium telluride). These panels: (a) do not contain materials that are toxic to humans, (b) are solid-state so they do not leach, and (c) are not left on the ground for extended periods of time.

Will we test water quality every 3-5 years?

RWE will consider water quality testing as part of its future collaboration with the Soil & Water Conservation District. However, even with testing, water contamination could be detected that is not caused by the solar equipment (for example, fertilizers, animal manure).

What are the requirements for developing a solar farm in Decatur County? Do these requirements align with industry-standards?

Article 20 of the Decatur County Zoning Ordinance¹¹ outlines the requirements for developing solar energy systems. The Greensburg Solar project has been developed to meet and exceed the requirements of the County's solar ordinance.

What environmental studies are conducted in the development process?

We have conducted the following environmental studies for the project:

- Wetland/Waterbody Delineations
- Species of Concern
- Cultural Resources Desktop Assessment
- Associated County, State, and Federal permitting requirements

¹⁰ <https://www.seia.org/initiatives/water-use-management>

¹¹ Article 20, Solar Energy Facilities <https://decaturcounty.in.gov/download/zoning-ordinance-article-20-solar-energy-facilities/?wpdmdl=6645&refresh=65c448185a9451707362328>

What are Indiana’s renewable energy state siting laws?

In 2023 the Indiana House Committee on Utilities, Energy and Communications passed Senate Bill 411,¹² which provides guidance on: (1) Setback requirements. (2) Height restrictions. (3) Shadow flicker limitations. (4) Signal interference. (5) Sound level limitations. (6) Wind turbine light mitigation technology. (7) Required repairs to drainage related infrastructure. (8) Project decommissioning.

Once the project is in operations, will it come under government ownership?

No. RWE’s intention is to own and operate the project throughout its lifetime.

¹² <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2022/bills/senate/411/details>

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 <i>110 MW solar & 20 MW, 6-hr storage in development</i>	Jun 2021
4	Prairie Creek	Blackford County, Indiana	<i>300 MW wind, 250 MW solar in development</i>	<i>2025 - wind 2029 - solar</i>

*Commercial Operation Date (when project became operational)

Hickory Park Solar + Storage

- 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/G>
- 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

Wildcat Wind

- 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

Scioto Wind (solar + storage phase in development)

- 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
- 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*

Prairie Creek Wind + Solar

- 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

RWE



Mayor of Buckeye, AZ Eric Orsborn

“

“The solar conversation comes up again and again because it is a very quick and easy project to put in the ground and start generating the power we need to grow.”

We have a phenomenal opportunity to shape the future of Buckeye as we aim to become a destination city. Our community has really embraced this growth and is excited about what that brings.

I have been the mayor of Buckeye since 2020, and it has been incredible to be a part of this development. Not only does Buckeye have a rich agricultural history, but we have also become a bustling community with the type of infrastructure and opportunities of a metropolitan area. As a native Arizonan, it is very exciting to be apart of all of this.

One of the major benefits to us as a city is the number of jobs the Mesquite Solar Farm has brought to the area and will continue to bring. Currently, about 90 % of our people travel East on I-10 to go to work. Not only will our residents have employment opportunities that are directly involved with Mesquite, but the solar farm will fast-track the creation of more jobs in the community, supporting the development of 40 million square feet of industrial space. That equates to about 120,000 jobs when it's all built out.

Buckeye is currently the fastest growing city in the United States, and solar is crucial to our growth. It's essentially “plug and play” – find the property, install the solar, plug it into the system, and we are instantly generating the power we need to grow. It's a very benign use of the land and a very quiet neighbor. Solar energy will help us shape the future that we are trying to create here in Buckeye.

