



# Florida Solar Power Plant Decommissioning Plan and Process

## Background

Over the next four years, Florida will have more than 900 MW of solar generation under construction or in operation – more than quadrupling the amount of in-service solar – and earning a third-place rank in solar development in the United States. A question of growing importance is how these solar facilities will be decommissioned once they reach the end of their useful lives.

Duke Energy is committed to being accountable and environmentally responsible for all of the solar facilities we own. We have adopted a comprehensive approach and process for decommissioning each Duke Energy-owned solar site and incorporated this process into the lifetime project budget. This process will help to ensure sites are restored to their original condition and all materials used in construction of the solar arrays are salvaged, recycled or disposed of in an environmentally conscious manner.

## High Springs Solar

The High Springs Solar Power Plant will utilize First Solar Series 6 modules that will be recycled at end of life. In 2005, as an industry leader, First Solar established the first global and comprehensive module recycling program in the photovoltaic (PV) industry. Duke Energy will collaborate with First Solar when the facility is decommissioned to send back all whole and broken modules. Up to 90% of the semiconductor material from these modules can be reused in new modules, while 90% of the glass can be reused in new glass products.



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## Site Decommissioning

Most solar sites have a life span of approximately 25-30 years. Below is the process Duke Energy follows once they are ready to be decommissioned:

1. Duke Energy will develop an individual plan to decommission each unique solar facility, taking into account all applicable rules and regulations at the time of decommissioning, lease or property covenants, and any site-specific environmental and local government requirements.
2. The solar facility is disconnected from the power grid.
3. Solar modules are disconnected, collected and either shipped to another project, salvaged or submitted to a collection and recycling facility.
4. Above-ground electrical interconnection and distribution cables are removed and recycled off-site by an approved recycling facility when they are deemed no longer necessary.
5. Duke Energy is responsible for the removal of the entire solar module steel racking system. The racking materials are removed and recycled off-site by a metals recycler. Metal fencing is also removed and recycled off-site by an approved recycler.
6. Electrical and electronic devices, including transformers and inverters, are removed and recycled off-site by an appropriate recycler.
7. The decommissioning process, including disassembly, removal and land restoration, is generally completed within two to six months, depending on the size of the facility.

## Site Reclamation

We are committed to best practices and we endeavor to restore sites to their initial use and condition. Once the decommissioning is complete, the site is tilled in order to restore subgrade materials to a density and soil depth that were present prior to the construction of the solar facility. The biodiversity of native grasses and pollinators is maintained as part of the company's comprehensive vegetation management plan.