


Southeast Solar Power & Wildlife/Natural Resources Regional Workshop

Georgia Power Headquarters, Atlanta, GA

JUNE 12-13, 2024

Presented by  **REWI** Renewable Energy
Wildlife Institute

Hosted by  Southern
Company

This Workshop was developed from the input & guidance of a Planning Committee made up of professionals from State/Federal Agencies, Industry, & Conservation/Science NGOs



Workshop Agenda

Agenda is subject to change

Dates & Times:

June 12: 9:00am – 5:10pm ET

June 13: 9:00am – 2:05pm ET

Location:

In-person: Georgia Power Headquarters, Atlanta, GA

Virtual: via Microsoft Teams

Goals and Outcomes

- Understand utility-scale solar development and operations in the Southeast (AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, TN), including opportunities and challenges.
 - For the Southeast
 - History of solar development
 - What is the current picture of solar development including opportunities and challenges?
 - Overview of current demand, capacity, technology, and GW, as well as geographic location
 - Federal, state, and local laws, guidance, regulations, and key decision makers
 - State of the science on solar and wildlife
 - Permitting, siting strategies, risk, and project economics
 - Looking to the future
 - Projected demand for large PV solar, scale, and development needed to support projections?
 - Where do models anticipate development occurring
 - What are potential concerns and opportunities?
 - Explore opportunities to address solar and wildlife/natural resource challenges and opportunities for collaboration

Wednesday, June 12

Time (ET)	Session & Topics
9:00am – 9:15am	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review agenda, logistics, and engagement guidelines
9:20am – 10:50am	Session I. Southeastern Solar Fleet Past, Current and Future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – History of solar development in the Southeast – Overview of current capacity, demand, technology, and status of solar development – Questions & Discussion
10:50am – 11:10am	Break
11:10am – 12:40pm	Session II. Solar Project Development Process & Site Selection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What are non-wildlife challenges/constraints/considerations for large utility-scale solar energy siting & development? – How do wildlife and ecosystems factor into early decisions about siting? – Questions & Discussion
12:40pm – 1:40pm	Lunch
1:40pm – 3:10pm	Session III. Overview of Federal, State, and Local Regulations and Voluntary Approaches to Address Current Outlook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review of Federal laws and regulations – Voluntary tools – Overview of state-relevant laws and regulations – Pathways to proposed management practices: lessons learned – Questions & Discussion
3:10pm – 3:30pm	Break
3:30pm – 5:00pm	Session IV. State of Science of Large Utility-scale Solar and Wildlife and Related Natural Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What do we know? – Minimization strategies and research needs for species of interest – Questions & Discussion
5:00pm – 5:10pm	Adjourn
5:10pm – 6:10pm	Evening Networking Reception

Thursday, June 13

Time (ET)	Session & Topics
9:00am – 9:15am	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review day one topics and discussions
9:20am – 10:50am	Session IV, <i>Continued</i>. State of Science of Large Utility-scale Solar and Wildlife and Related Natural Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Aquatics - Freshwater, erosion, and stormwater – Panel Discussion - Introduction to questions for the future to address – Questions & Discussion
10:50am – 11:10am	Break
11:10am – 12:10pm	Looking to the Future: Possible Breakout Discussion Topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Research needs and challenges with solar and wildlife in the Southeast – Lessons learned, next steps, and mechanisms to collaborate
12:10pm – 1:10pm	Lunch
1:10pm – 1:40pm	Breakout Discussion: Report Out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Questions & Discussion
1:45pm – 2:05pm	Workshop Closing Remarks & Adjourn