Frequently Asked Questions About Data Sharing

REWI SOLAR WILDLIFE AND ECOSYSTEM DATABASE

What data licenses are available on REWI's Platform?

There are three license options to share your dataset on REWI Platform Database. You may:

1) Use the REWI Agreement to **have your data anonymized then added to a pooled dataset** which can only be downloaded by users with a REWI-approved request.
2) Make information about your dataset discoverable on REWI Platform Database but **only share it through requests** made directly to your organization.
3) **Share your dataset directly with registered users** of REWI Platform Database by applying a Creative Commons BY-SA license.

How does REWI's dataset pooling work?

REWI will anonymize and pool your dataset with similar datasets from other providers to create one or more pooled datasets. Only the information about the pooled dataset is discoverable by users of REWI Platform. Characteristics that could tie a dataset to individual facilities are only used by REWI Platform administrators to facilitate database management and pooling tasks.

How are pooled datasets used by REWI?

REWI will produce data summaries and visualizations of pooled datasets that are viewable by registered users of REWI Platform which may contain your anonymized dataset, if approved for pooling. Summaries and visualizations will be targeted to the needs of solar siting and permitting decision-makers. Research using pooled datasets that results in publicly available reports or journal articles may be conducted by REWI.

Who can access pooled datasets?

If a registered REWI Platform user desires to view and download a pooled dataset for their research that contains your dataset, they will submit a detailed request which REWI will approve/deny based on its alignment with the REWI Platform Research Guidelines. You will receive an annual notice from REWI with a list of fulfilled user requests for pooled datasets that contained your dataset.

How will my dataset be anonymized prior to pooling?

Before adding your dataset to a pooled dataset, the following measures are taken by REWI:

1) Solar facility's name and owner replaced with randomly-generated identifiers;
2) OEM name and equipment model number(s) removed;
3) The capacity and area of the facility is categorized (e.g. 112MW may become 100-150MW; 1,143ac may become 1000-1500ac);
4) Lat/long and precise spatial information are removed and location is generalized to state/province and level III ecoregion by default; and
5) Regions (i.e. States) with fewer than five operating solar facilities and three owners will not be considered when creating data summaries and visualizations.

Will datasets be made public if research is published in a scientific journal?

REWI will not allow raw unaggregated versions of pooled datasets to be published. REWI has experience publishing confidential data in scientific journals by making data available through the same request process used by the researchers in the data availability statement. REWI will work with researchers to ensure that the journals they choose to publish in are compatible with the data availability we can provide.