

Solar Wildlife and Ecosystem Database: Data Provider Guide

The Solar Wildlife and Ecosystem Database, developed by REWI, is a community resource that helps solar developers, owners, and operators turn their biodiversity and ecological data into a strategic resource. **This database helps reduce permitting risk and improve decision making by pooling costly biodiversity and ecological data from large-scale solar facilities, while protecting data confidentiality.**

Biodiversity and ecological data collected during permitting, construction, and operations represent a significant investment. Too often, these data are siloed, underused, or lost over time. **The REWI Solar Wildlife and Ecosystem Database ensures that existing datasets are preserved, protected, and—when appropriate—used in aggregated analyses that support smarter siting, mitigation, and long-term project performance.**

WHY INDUSTRY PARTICIPATES

Reduce Risk and Uncertainty

Companies can benchmark ecological outcomes at their facilities against pooled data from comparable projects—similar geography, landscape context, and wildlife communities. This helps teams calibrate expectations, identify potential conflicts earlier, and avoid costly surprises during permitting or operations.

Support Faster, More Defensible Permitting

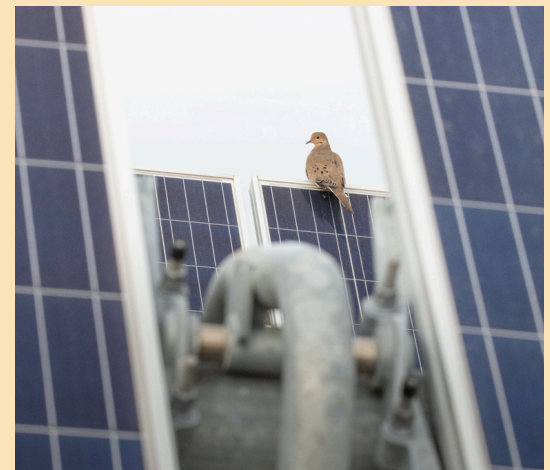
Regulators increasingly expect data-driven justification for siting and mitigation decisions. REWI's Solar Wildlife and Ecosystem Database provides a credible, third-party mechanism for demonstrating that decisions are informed by real-world outcomes at comparable solar facilities, not just single-site assumptions.

Protect and Preserve Your Data

Contributors retain ownership of their data while benefiting from REWI's longstanding experience managing confidential information from renewable energy projects. Biodiversity and ecological data are securely archived, professionally managed, and not lost as staff, consultants, or ownership change.

Contribute Without Losing Control

Participation does not require making data public. There are multiple sharing options, allowing organizations to contribute in ways that align with internal policies, contractual obligations, and risk tolerance.



WHO SHOULD CONTRIBUTE

Developers

Ecosystem and wildlife data from site screening, permitting, or early development to benchmark risk and support siting decisions.

Owners & Operators

Post-Construction wildlife and ecosystem monitoring data to mitigate conflict and demonstrate uplift—without exposing project details.

Consultants

Client biodiversity and ecological datasets seeking secure storage, standardization, and long-term value while maintaining confidentiality.

The REWI Solar Wildlife and Ecosystem Database helps the solar industry move from one-off studies to evidence-based, repeatable decision making—without increasing risk.

By learning from outcomes across many facilities, industry partners can reduce uncertainty, improve predictability, and strengthen the case for responsible solar development.

FLEXIBLE DATA SHARING OPTIONS

Industry partners choose how their data is shared:

- **REWI Managed Pooling:** Data is anonymized and combined with similar datasets; access is granted only through REWI-approved requests tied to defined research or decision support purposes.
- **Provider Managed Access:** REWI's Solar Wildlife and Ecosystem Database enables discovery, but the data owner reviews and approves all access requests under their own terms.
- **Direct Download:** For datasets already intended for broader use, data may be shared under a Creative Commons license with registered users.

Embargo periods and customized approaches are available to align with internal policies and contractual obligations.

BUILT-IN SAFEGUARDS

For pooled datasets, REWI applies robust anonymization measures, including removal of facility identifiers, generalization of size and location, and aggregation safeguards to prevent re-identification. Raw pooled data are never made public.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Data Sharing FAQs



Priority Questions & Data Types



HAVE DATA TO SHARE?

Reach out to REWI's Information Science Lead, Ryan Butryn, to get started:

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