



Habitat Friendly Solar Summit: Next Steps

Identifying Next Steps and Remaining Questions for Habitat Friendly Solar in Minnesota



Who do you represent?



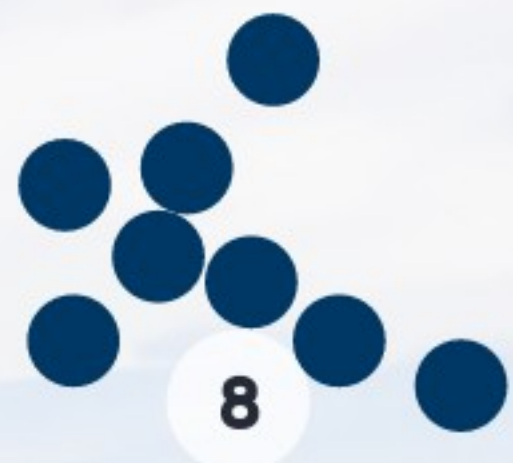
Local government



SWCD/Conservation District



State agency



Non-profit, education, advocacy



Solar industry



Landscape/habitat



Other consultant

How familiar were you with the Habitat Friendly Solar Standard before you came to this workshop?



I have used it in evaluating a solar development



I reviewed it, but not used it



I knew of it, but had not reviewed it



This workshop was the first I've heard of it



Sorry, what is the Habitat Friendly Standard?

Do you feel you are familiar with the Habitat Friendly Solar Standard now?



Yes



I know it better, but still have questions



I have a lot of questions



No

Discussion

Turn to the person next to you (pairs or groups of three). Each person take one minute to describe your key takeaway from the morning presentation.



What is one question that the morning's presentations raised? Some examples are below.

- Who can administer the standard?
- What are the seed mixes for different eco-systems?
- Does the standard work with incentive programs?
- Will BWSR help with re-writing county ordinances?
- Does this really help agriculture?
- Does it work in shoreland areas or floodplains?
- How do we get some solar honey beer?



Discussion

Turn to the person next to you and pose one question that you have from this morning's presentations. Try to come to agreement on one question that both (or all three of you) want to know?



What is the question that you came up with in your discussion?

Diversity rocks! That is all!

Is there a way to standardize regulations across the state, county, etc?

Will there/is there enough seed for all these solar farms?

Metrics/quantification of benefits (not just feel good projects)

How does adding storage to a solar site (a proposed hybrid, or adding storage to existing solar) change design and siting best practices for pollinator habitat, if at all?

Is there a way to marry pollinator requirements with funding programs such as RIM, EQIP, or CREP?

How do you address habitat connectivity with these programs?

How many solar developers register the project/company name with the State of Mn toward future tracking?

How can we best work with the community to host "good" (open definition) projects?



What is the question that you came up with in your discussion?

How to incentivize vs regulate to death a good idea

Which agency would be better for reviewing solar ordinance?

How to make costs low for smaller scale sites? 40 kW? Typical farm installation.

What are the common myths or pushbacks to solar projects and how do you address them?

How do we combine energy and agriculture together in a fully integrated way? Really.....how to bring the stakeholders together

Is encouraging honey bees (nonnative pollinators) at odds with providing habitat for our native pollinators?

What kind of additional incentives could be "layered" with habitat-friendly solar?

To meet beneficial habitat, Does BWSR scorecard require a project have a long term contract with a company for maintenance?

How does the state list of sites meeting the pollinator standard get populated and what is it used for? Will the state allocated money for staff time to manage this list?



What is the question that you came up with in your discussion?



How do we develop a stable, long-term funding mechanism here in MN to support the science, data collection, and local regulatory oversight necessary to maximize long term habitat benefits?

Can the BWSR standards accommodate seed mixes that will more clearly benefit possible agricultural uses?



How can project proposers work with the local government unit up front to site projects and trouble shoot potential adjacent landowner concerns.

How to best encourage local elected officials to adopt ordinances that promote pollinator friendly standards into solar projects?

How do we overcome the barriers to public acceptance of the benefits of solar? How do we prove the benefits of solar and pollinator habitat to the public?

Is it true that road ROWs are not good for pollinator habitat? Is MMDOT using the pollinator habitat seed mixes?



Has your county or community had to address large-scale solar development?



26

Yes, we have seen solar development proposals or installations



10

Not in my community, but I hear of it nearby



3

No solar development in our region



7

I don't know

Does your county (or company or agency) use the Habitat Friendly Solar Standard?



We directly reference it in our solar ordinance



We use it in the conditional use permit process



We don't reference the standard, but use a similar ground cover/habitat standard



We do not use the standard



I don't know if it is used

Does your SWCD/conservation district have programs for habitat or watershed restoration?



Does your community provide incentives for landowners to restore habitat or watershed functions?



2

Yes, there is an incentive program

0

The state has incentive programs but there is nothing local



1

I don't know

Habitat friendly installation needs to be maintained over time. Do you have concerns about maintaining this 'green infrastructure'?



We have tools in place to ensure that it's protected and maintained



Existing protections will ensure that the habitat is maintained



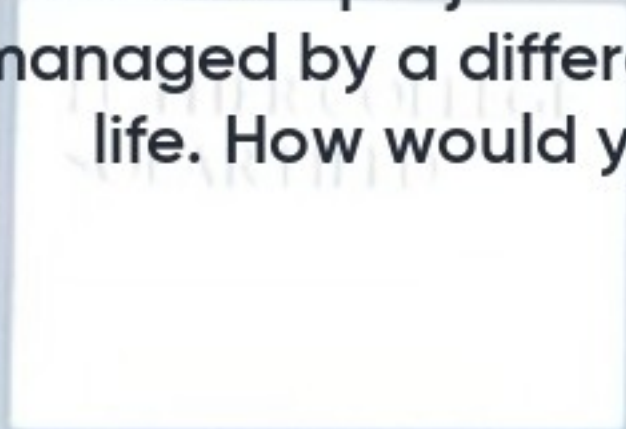
These projects will likely create nuisances and not be maintained



I have no idea if this will be a problem

Maintenance Discussion

Assume that the solar project in your community will change hands (be sold to and managed by a different company) two or three times over its life. How would you answer the question?



Who is the best entity to manage the green infrastructure over the life of the project?



The project owner, enforcement by local government



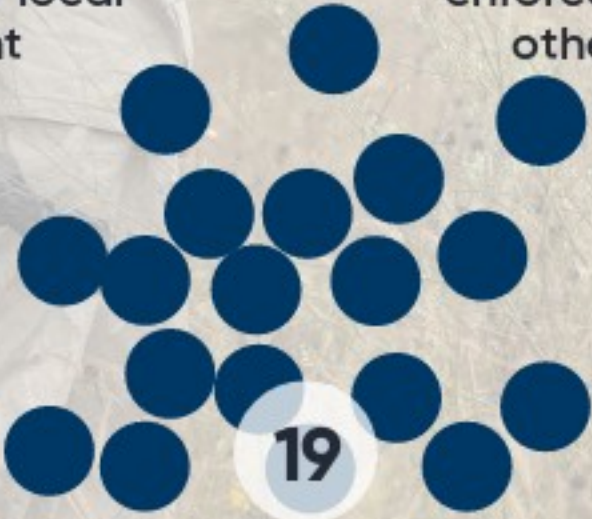
The project owner, enforcement by BWSR or other state agency



The property owner subject to local zoning performance standards



The State of MN should ensure consistency across solar farms



A third party that is given management responsibility, paid for by the owner



Between the solar owner and the property owner, enforced through the lease



Someone else....