America's Clean Energy Future: Smart from the Start

Lucerne Valley Solar Project, San Bernardino County, California

The Lucerne Valley Project is smart from the start

The Lucerne Valley Solar Project shows how renewable energy developers can build our clean energy future **smart from the start**. Chevron Energy Solutions worked closely with the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to site the modestly-sized solar energy facility on public lands, avoiding unnecessary negative impacts on sensitive desert wildlife and natural resources.

Chevron chose wisely when locating its project on this site. A paved highway, passable dirt roads and power lines run along the proposed site, while degraded properties – including a defunct mining operation – occupy the surrounding lands, making this an ideal site to host a solar energy plant.

Water-conscious desert residents will appreciate the project's relatively low use of water, which is limited to the occasional scrub down of its solar panels after construction is completed.

Chevron plans to tap a local provider for its water needs, reducing the power plant's reliance on scarce desert water flows and on-site wells.

Courtesy of the U.S. Department of Energy

A photovoltaic array

Fast Facts

Energy output: 45 megawatts

Technology: Photovoltaic solar panels

Site footprint: Approx. 516 acres on federal public lands

Developer: Chevron Energy Solutions

Wildlife impact: Low

Project status: Final Environmental Impact Statement released

Fast-track: Yes

What is smart from the start? Renewable energy projects should…

- Be subject to a comprehensive environmental review based on thorough analyses of the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of proposed projects
- Be built near cities, big energy users and existing transmission lines
- Be sited on disturbed and/or degraded lands (such as brownfields, former industrial sites, defunct mines, abandoned agricultural lands), or on places of low resource value
- Avoid wilderness quality lands, sensitive wildlife habitat and important natural and cultural resources
- Mitigate any impacts on wildlife and natural resources by protecting or restoring similar habitat and ecosystems