

Supporting infrastructure delivery at the intersection of built and natural environments

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#### Utility-Scale Solar Site Construction Stormwater Management

FAGAN CONSULTING LLC

## What's happening with solar?

- Clean energy to make up 84% of new US power capacity in 2023
- The US is a world leader in producing electricity generated by the sun.



# What's happening with solar?

#### Ranked: The Best and Worst States for Solar Energy

Forbes Home ranked the best and worst states for solar based off of six key metrics.

 Solar development in the US doesn't seem to be completely driven by the sun, or by alternate energy sources, or by politics.



What's driving solar?

"I am totally for any source of new energy that is cheap, easy to use, and doesn't pollute."

– Governor Kay Ivey

WHEN THERE IS A

HUGE SOLAR SPILL,

IT'S JUST CALLED

A NICE DAY.

#### Solar energy is cost effective.

- Solar \$24/MWh
- Coal \$36/MWh
- Utility-scale solar has zero emissions.
- Solar energy generation offsets +73 million metric tons of CO2 emissions/year (equivalent to planting ±1.2 billion trees).



## The land.



## The water.

Image © 2023 CNES / Airbus

Image © 2023 CNES / Airbus

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The land.

## The water.





SEPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

News Releases from Region 01

EPA Enforcement Ensures that Solar Company Follows Stormwater Discharge Requirements at Warren, Mass. Facility



conflicted

## Green solar farm is turning an Essex County watershed brown



We're not in the desert anymore.

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"At [my company], we're used to building more on the west coast and in desert areas like California, Arizona, Utah, and some in Idaho. We're used to flat land and generally square to rectangular-shaped projects. Coming to Alabama was quite the surprise. The topography was a lot more extreme for a solar site."

We're not in the desert anymore.



# The State of Practice?













## Risk

- Regulatory
- Environmental
- Community Expectations
- Legal Expectations
- Operation and Maintenance
- Contractual

















v Investors	V EPC Contractor	
Veveloper	<ul> <li>EPC Design Consultant</li> </ul>	
Project Company	<ul> <li>EPC Construction Contractor</li> </ul>	

## **1. Managing Communication**

includes all efforts to convey information among project stakeholders to increase effectiveness in project planning, design, and implementation.













## 2. Managing Work

includes all operational efforts to ensure that work proceeds in a manner that is protective of the owner's interests and environmental responsibilities.













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# Limiting and Delaying Disturbance Access Management



# Limiting and Delaying Disturbance Access Management



#### PRIMARY ACCESS ROAD



#### SECONDARY ACCESS ROAD

## Access Road Construction



# Access Road ConstructionLow Water Crossings



## Low Water Crossings









## 3. Managing Water

includes all efforts that address the flow of waters through the project to protect the work area and minimize the work of managing erosion and sediment.















# Water is dumb – we get to tell it where to go. Fast water carries more sediment than slow water. Fast water is more erosive than slow water.









## 4. Managing Erosion

includes all efforts to minimize the displacement of soil particles by splash, sheet, rill, and channel erosion to minimize negative project impacts and reduce the work of managing sediment.













## Proper Vegetative Species and Rate of Application

208809

## Proper Perennial Vegetative Species



## Invasive, Noxious, and Nuisance Weeds



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good

## Invasive, Noxious, and Nuisance Weeds







## 5. Managing Sediment

includes all efforts to influence the transport and deposition of suspended soil particles displaced by erosion.













Regulatory
Environmental
Community Expectations

Legal Expectations
Operation and Maintenance
Contractual



# Area = \$ 100 sed basins = ±40 acres





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#### NEWS

# What's happening with solar?

## Alabama still at the bottom in solar power rankings, but has potential to rise

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Solar development in the US doesn't seem to be completely driven by the sun, or by alternate energy sources, or by politics.

State	Total Solar Capacity	Distributed Solar
Florida	7,288 MW	1,293 MW
North Carolina	4,273 MW	443 MW
Georgia	3,769 MW	302 MW
South Carolina	2,226 MW	282 MW
Tennessee	595 MW	78 MW
Alabama	348 MW	18 MW
Mississippi	277 MW	10 MW

What's hap with solar? Solar = Jobs	pening	Ranked: The Best and Worst States Forbes Home ranked the best and worst states for solar	<b>for Solar Energy</b> based off of six key metrics.
State	Solar Jobs		
California	75,712		
Florida	11,761		7
Massachusetts	10,548		4 39 10
New York	10,524		6
Texas	10,346		
		nload image	Forbes Advisor



 Community Expectations
 Legal Expectations



 Operation and Maintenance

Contractual

