



South Carolina Solar Habitat Scorecard

Below are questions that will be utilized to monitor Solar Habitat Sites following two and four growing seasons. A score of 70 is required to maintain recognition as "pollinator friendly".

1. Plant Diversity in Rows and Under Solar Arrays
 - a. 4-6 species 5 pts
 - b. > 7 species 8 pts
 - c. All native species (at least 4) 10 pts

2. Vegetative Buffer Adjacent to Solar Site. Choose all that apply.
 - a. There is a vegetative buffer outside of array fencing. 5 pts
 - b. Buffer is at least 30 feet wide measured from array fencing. 5 pts
 - c. Buffer is at least 50 feet wide measured from array fencing. 10 pts
 - d. Buffer includes native shrubs/trees that provide food for wildlife. 5 pts

3. Number of Native Species in Site Perimeter and Buffer
 - a. 4-6 species 5 pts
 - b. 6-10 species 10 pts
 - c. >10 species 15 pts

4. Percentage of Perimeter and Buffer Area Dominated by Native Plants
 - a. 26-50% 2 pts
 - b. 51-75% 10 pts
 - c. > 75% 15 pts

5. The site has been checked for exotic and noxious weeds, and appropriate control measures put in place?
 - a. Yes 15 pts
 - b. No 0 pts

6. Percentage of Site Vegetation Cover Dominated by Wildflowers
 - a. 26-50% 5 pts
 - b. 51-75% 10 pts
 - c. >75% 15 pts

7. Seasons with at Least Three Blooming Native Forb Species Present. Choose all that apply.
 - a. Spring (April-May) 5 pts
 - b. Summer (June-August) 5 pts
 - c. Fall (September-October) 5 pts

8. Available Habitat Components within 0.25 miles. Choose all that apply
 - a. Native bunch grass for bee nesting. 2 pts
 - b. Native trees/shrubs for bee nesting. 2 pts
 - c. Clean, perennial water sources. 2 pts
 - d. Created habitat nesting features 2 pts

9. Site Planning and Management. Choose all that apply.
- a. Detailed management plan developed (required) 10 pts
 - b. Signage legible at 40 or more feet stating pollinator friendly solar habitat 3 pts
10. Insecticide Risk. Points are deducted for the use of insecticides based on their toxicity to pollinators following groups designated by Clemson University's Department of Pesticide Regulation. <https://www.clemson.edu/public/regulatory/pesticide-regulation/bulletins/bulletin-5-protecting-honeybees.pdf>
- a. Group 1 Highest Toxicity -40 pts
 - b. Group 2 Moderate Toxicity -20 pts
 - c. Group 3 Relatively Non-toxic -5 pts