



## South Carolina Solar Habitat Site Vegetation Management Plan Template

The purpose of this document is to provide a framework for a Solar Habitat Vegetation Management Plan. A management plan outlines the purpose of the land management activity to maintain pollinator habitat and prescribes how that will be conducted. The Technical Guidelines for Development of Wildlife & Pollinator Habitat at Solar Farms should be consulted as you develop your management plan. The Guidelines provide overviews on site preparation and planting and long-term management.

The Vegetation Management Plan should be structured as follows:

- A. Existing Site Condition
  - a. Describe the existing condition of the site. Is it forested and will have to be cleared? Or is it a fallow or active agriculture field? Are there any stream or wetland features?
  - b. What soil types are onsite?
- B. Proposed Condition
  - a. Describe time of year planting is proposed and what species are planned for planting and at what seeding rate. Describe in percentage of the mixes you plan to plant by grasses and forbs (herbaceous flowering plants). Also, list what percentage of your seed mix is native plant species. Please note that it is recommended that at least 4-6 different species be utilized. Additionally, it is helpful to have at least one blooming species per season (spring, summer or fall).
  - b. List your seed sources where you plan to purchase the seed.
  - c. Describe where you will plant, whether in the Panel Zone, Buffer Zone or both. Do you plan to manage native species beneficial for wildlife in the vegetated buffer outside of the security fence? If so, describe the width of that vegetated buffer.
  - d. If a cover crop (brown top millet, rye, wheat or oats) is planned for use, include that in the plan.
  - e. Will your site have a Long-Term Refuge zone? If so, describe what type.
- C. Site Preparation
  - a. Has herbicide treatment been applied in the past 5 years? If so, list which ones that have been applied and when.
  - b. Describe how you plan to prepare the soil and handle any existing vegetation prior to planting.
  - c. Describe how you plan to plant the site (broadcast seeding, drill seeding, drop seeding, transplanting plugs or seedlings).
- D. Site Management
  - a. Describe and provide details about mowing frequency, time of year, height of mower deck, etc.
  - b. Describe and provide details about herbicide application, the type of chemicals used, the mode of spraying, the time of year you plan to spray, etc.
  - c. Include the name, address, phone number and/or email for any vegetation management company planned to contract for site vegetation management.
- E. Site Timeline
  - a. Provide an overall timeline for the development of your solar site by completing the table below.

Solar Habitat	Activity	Date (Month/Year)
	Order seeds	
In Progress Status	Start site prep (herbicide application)	
	Start soil prep (grading, discing, etc)	
	Plant seeds	
	Year 1 maintenance (mowing, weedeating or herbicide spot spraying)	
	First inspection (after two growing seasons)	
Certified Solar Site	Certified Solar Site signage displayed	
	Second inspection (after four growing seasons)	