



***Qualifying Dual Use Agricultural Solar Tariff
Generation Units
Straw Proposal***

September, 2020

Technical Requirements- Keep Original Guidance

- Panel Height
 - 8 ft fixed arrays
 - 10 ft tracking arrays
- Maximum Direct Sunlight Reduction
 - 50% on every square foot of the project site
- Compatible Sunlight Needs
 - Not explicitly defined, but crop selection should align with the available sunlight of the project design based on best available data
 - Maintain UMass (or third party) to provide comment on sunlight needs for proposed crop(s).
- Growing Season/Time of Day
 - March through October
 - Maximum 50% sunlight reduction between 10AM and 5PM for March and October, and from 9AM to 6PM from April through September

Application Requirements- Keep Original Guidance

- Application
 - System Design demonstrating compliance with technical requirements
 - Farm Plan with crop/ grazing narrative
 - Shading Analysis showing no more than 50% sunlight reduction per square foot
- Annual Farm Report
 - Submitted to DOER and MDAR
 - Reports must demonstrate continued agricultural yield, or provide an explanation for decreased yield. DOER will provide examples that will include fallowing field, crop change (lettuce to blueberry) or weather/pest event.
- Applicants that meet Application Requirements and technical requirements will be eligible, subject to providing Annual Farm Report

Project Size – Proposing New Requirements

- ASTGU size shall be no more than the larger of:
 - 2MW AC, or
 - No more than 50% of the eligible farmland based on the DC system size capacity, up to 5MW AC
- All eligible farmland shall be measured as all land that is owned by the farm or leased by a lessee, and:
 - Land defined under 61A or has been enrolled in 61A in past five years or
 - Prime farmland, unique farmland and additional land of statewide importance
- DC Cap: 125% of the AC size of the project

Application and Approval Process

Keep Original Guidance and Eliminate Uncertainty

- Projects must follow current established process
 - Review by UMass Agricultural Extension through UMass Clean Energy Extension
- No yield requirements will be instituted

Propose New Alternative Approval Processes

- Proposal to allow projects to be submitted directly to DOER if they meet third party certification
- Third party certification not currently established, but is being explored by American Farmland Trust

Comments

Please submit comments on this proposal to DOER.SMART@mass.gov by 5pm October 30, 2020