

Solar energy and environmental stewardship

Making Florida a leader in clean energy and sustainability

Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) is committed to delivering America's best energy value – the cleanest, most reliable energy at a price well below the national average. We are in the midst of the largest solar buildout in the country as part of our Real Zero goal to eliminate carbon emissions from FPL's operations by at least 2045.

FPL's commitment

FPL is the largest generator of solar in Florida, with dozens of solar energy centers in operation, and each FPL solar site is designed to safely coexist with the flora and fauna across our great state.

FPL has been an industry leader in environmental protection and stewardship for decades. Our commitment to environmental sustainability is not only the right thing to do, it also makes good business sense. Our commitment to compliance, conservation, communication and continuous improvement fosters a culture of environmental excellence in our business planning, operations and daily work. As part of this commitment, FPL ensures environmental stewardship is a key consideration throughout all phases of a solar project.

BY THE NUMBERS

- » 4,450 acres of wetlands preserved
- » 4,000 acres placed under conservation designation
- » 15,000 lbs. of native wildflower seed planted since 2020
- » 293,000 native trees, shrubs, prairie grasses and wildflowers planted

Commitment to responsibly developing solar

Siting

Before we build any operating facility, we work to understand the local ecosystem – to partner in its preservation and to be a good neighbor to all the species that live there. We carefully consider the presence of any threatened or endangered species, as well as significant wildlife corridors, wetlands or other ecologically important areas. Before developing a solar site, we evaluate the existing natural resources and seek to avoid or minimize potential impacts. Key environmental considerations during the siting process include:

- » Avoidance of designated critical habitat
- » Avoidance of historic or cultural resources/tribal traditional cultural properties
- » Preference to develop on previously disturbed sites with minimal wetlands and waterbodies

Design

We remain focused on stewardship through the design process. We evaluate all site specific wildlife surveys and any information obtained from state and federal wildlife agencies to inform design decisions. During this phase, FPL identifies environmental stewardship measures and voluntary site-specific stewardship actions to protect or enhance natural resources and incorporates them into the overall project plan.

Stakeholder Outreach

Another key step in our stewardship design is conducting outreach to local stakeholders to identify site-specific interests and stewardship opportunities. Stakeholders may include local citizens and counties, state wildlife agencies, conservation organizations, academic institutions and any other interested parties. These stakeholders provide valuable knowledge of local ecological or environmental matters to inform the process.

Construction

During construction, various specialists provide oversight of all environmental compliance and stewardship objectives. FPL strictly adheres to environmental best management practices (BMP) associated with soil stabilization, the protection of natural resources and the protection of wildlife and their habitats. As part of this commitment, FPL implements standard protection measures including signage, buffers, setbacks and even stop-work orders if wildlife are present.

Solar Generation Operations

Following construction, environmental, wildlife and stewardship specialists work with facility operations and maintenance staff to ensure any ongoing environmental compliance or stewardship elements are properly maintained during the power generation phase of the project.



Solar Stewardship Program, An Eco-innovation Partnership with Audubon Florida

In addition to our standard stewardship commitment, for the majority of our solar sites, we work with Audubon Florida and other local organizations to craft site-specific habitat enhancement and preservation plans focused on providing habitat opportunities for birds, pollinators and other wildlife. We accomplish this through a variety of prescriptive methodologies, including but not limited to:

- » Restoring hydrology to wetlands
- » Increasing biodiversity through the use of appropriate native plant species
- » Removing invasive species and implementing procedures to prevent regrowth
- » Incorporating pollinator species into ground covers
- » Installing artificial perches, nest boxes and platforms for wildlife use



FPL Solar Environmental Stewardship Pillars

Conservation

Our commitment to preserving and enhancing our natural resources is ingrained in every aspect of our solar development process. A primary objective of our stewardship program is the conservation of natural resources through the preservation, enhancement or creation of functional habitat for a wide variety of birds, mammals, reptiles and insect pollinator species. Water conservation is another important objective as sites are designed to retain more water than the prior land use, which also improves the quality of the water leaving the site. We utilize low-impact strategies to maintain vegetation within the solar arrays and are always exploring integrated approaches and specialized equipment to selectively manage nuisance vegetation without adversely impacting biodiversity. Additionally, no fertilizers, insecticides or fungicides are used in operational areas at solar sites.

Wildlife

FPL is committed to supporting wildlife by facilitating access to and utilization of resources within our sites. FPL accomplishes this through the standardization of wildlife friendly fencing at the majority of all future FPL solar sites in Florida, the preservation or enhancement of wildlife dispersal corridors between existing habitats where it is feasible and the creation of diverse plant communities to provide nectar and pollen resources for wildlife.

Land Management

FPL continues to explore opportunities for diversified use of our solar facilities while also striving to preserve the natural resources on operating sites. Our goal is to continuously improve our land stewardship practices through adoption of innovative technologies and complementary partnerships that achieve multifunctional benefits. At many FPL solar sites, we lease unused land to farmers or other tenants. In some instances, we have cooperative agreements with tenants to collaborate on land stewardship tasks such as invasive species management or habitat management outside the operational footprint.

Research and Education

FPL and our research partners conduct a variety of wildlife utilization and habitat evaluations on our solar sites to better understand the dynamics of wildlife and solar infrastructure. These studies focus on characterizing and documenting utilization by threatened, endangered and other species and evaluating pollinator resources. Environmental education is a primary component of the conservation efforts undertaken by both FPL and our partners.



Wildlife-friendly fencing

In 2021, FPL standardized the use of wildlife-friendly fencing at all future solar sites across the state to allow for wildlife utilization. Prior to that, FPL always used wildlife-friendly fencing at sites within panther habitat to avoid disrupting the movement of local wildlife. At two solar energy centers in Hendry County, the company conducted camera studies to ensure animals were able to safely access and use the solar sites. The cameras have observed thousands of animals - including panthers, bears, deer, rabbits, raccoons, bobcats, coyotes, caracaras, sandhill cranes, herons, egrets and more. We share these data and work closely with regulatory agencies and environmental organizations across the state.