

Solar in St. Lawrence County

Solar has made its way into the North Country. According to New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), as of December 2023, St. Lawrence County has 677 home, community, and commercial solar projects, generating about 108.4 MW of energy. In 2023 alone, 31 new solar projects were completed in our county.¹ While there are many divided feelings about solar and its economic and land impacts, it is certain to continue to be a topic for years to come.



With improvement of the energy grid and continued interest in larger scale projects by solar companies, it is growing increasingly important for landowners to familiarize themselves with common questions about solar as well as learning about their property.

While the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) does not play an active role in most solar projects, they can be a vital resource in assisting landowners in learning about their properties.

Where the Soil and Water Conservation District can help:



Taxes

- Is your land in an agricultural district?
- Do you have or qualify for an agricultural tax exemption?



Soils

- What type of soils are on your property? Are they hydric?
- Does your property contain Prime Farmland or Soils of Statewide Importance?
- What is the geology of your property? What is the average depth to bedrock, and do you have karst topography?



Wetlands

- Does your property contain Federal and/or State designated wetlands?
- Is there a wetland easement on your property?
- Would any portion of your property be eligible for an easement?



Forestry

- What is the quality of your woodlot/forest?
- Do you want/need a Forest Management Plan?

Other Resources:

stlawco.gov/Departments/Planning/SolarDevelopmentMappingTool
websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/
nysolarmap.com/
ores.ny.gov/



For more info on how SWCD can be of assistance, visit us at slcswcd.org or call us at 315-386-3582

St. Lawrence County SWCD does not provide legal advice. We are here as a resource for residents and landowners.