



Dual-Use Solar Energy Pilot Program

Program Year 1 Solicitation Round 1
First Application Period

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Welcome

This is the public stakeholder meeting for:

Docket No. **QO23090679**

In the Matter of
The Dual-Use Solar Energy Pilot Program

This session will focus on the new application process.

Webinar Format

- All attendees will be automatically muted.
- Questions? Please use the Q&A function in Zoom. Attendees can post questions and view (but not comment on) questions posted by others.
- We will address clarifying questions at the end of the presentation. These will be collected as FAQs and posted to the docket.
- This meeting is being recorded. A copy of the recording and slides will be made available on the BPU website:
<https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/public/>.

Disclaimer

This presentation is provided for informational purposes only and should not be taken to represent the views of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, its Commissioners, or the State of New Jersey. Please be aware that any information presented is subject to change if there are changes to New Jersey statutes, rules, or policies.

All viewers are responsible for ensuring that they rely only on current legal authority regarding the matters covered in the presentation.

Agenda Topics

- Dual-Use Solar Energy Pilot Program overview
- Proceedings and Board Orders
- Solicitation Schedule
- Solicitation Process
- Information on the Application Period
- Evaluation Criteria
- Application Requirements & Forms
- Adder Calculations & Project Costs
- Portal Application Preview
- Next steps: Award Process
- Resources
- Q&A

Dual-Use Solar Energy Pilot Program

The Pilot Program is designed to encourage the development of dual-use solar facilities, also known as agrivoltaics, and provide incentives within the SuSI Program, which serves as the permanent program for providing solar incentives to qualified solar electric generation facilities.

- Dual-Use solar facilities **must** be sited on unpreserved farmland. Siting on "preserved farmland" as defined in N.J.S.A. 54:4-23.3c is prohibited.
- A full list of siting prohibitions can be found in the [October 2024 Board Order](#).
- Facilities cannot be smaller than **500 kW dc** capacity in size and cannot exceed **10 MW (dc)** capacity.
- Program Year 1 capacity target: **65 MW**
- Total Pilot Program capacity: **200 MW**

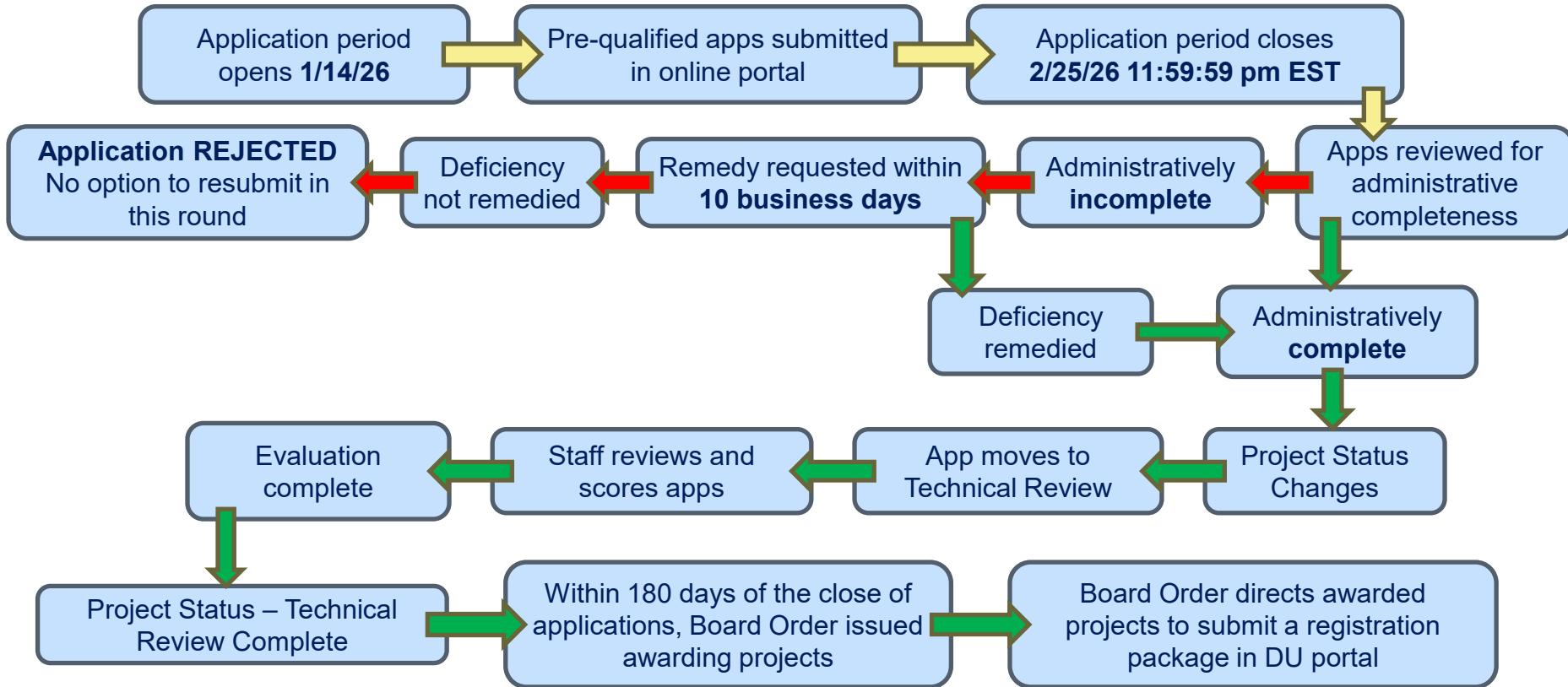
Proceedings and Board Orders

- On **October 23, 2024**, the Board established the Dual-Use Solar Energy Pilot Program in accordance with the Dual-Use Solar Energy Act of 2021 (P.L. 2021, c. 170, “Dual-Use Act”) signed into law on July 9, 2021.
- **January 6, 2025** - Board Staff invited all interested parties to submit Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for pre-qualification into the Pilot Program with a deadline of February 14, 2025.
- As of **August 26, 2025**, Board Staff completed issuing pre-qualification determination letters for the Pilot Program’s first round of agrivoltaic project proposals.
- **November 21, 2025** - The Board voted to open the first application period of the Pilot Program to pre-qualified applicants. The application portal will open on **January 14, 2026**, and close on **February 25, 2026**.
- **November 21, 2025** - The Board approved a Notice of Adoption (NOA) with proposed substantial changes (NOPSCUA) to adopt rule amendments to N.J.A.C. 14:8-1.2 and 11.4 and the new rules at N.J.A.C. 14:8-13.
 - *Note: the rulemaking is a separate docket, i.e., [QX24080597](#). Refer to the NOA and NOPSCUA for instructions on how to provide comments. Board Staff will not be accepting public comment on the rulemaking during this webinar.*

Dual-Use First Solicitation Schedule

Date	Event
Jan 14th, 2026	Application window opens
Feb 25th, 2026, 11:59:59 PM	Application window closes (last day to submit)
Within 180 days from the close of the application window	Board Order announces projects conditionally approved for an award
TBD days after Board Order	Registration for conditionally approved projects due

Overview of Solicitation Process



First Application Period

- Only pre-qualified projects that submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) and were issued a letter of approval are eligible to apply during the First Application Period.
- An application fee of **\$1,000/MWdc** is required. There is an option to waive the fee if the applicant demonstrates financial hardship. For more information, see the [Application Fee Form](#) and the [Request to Waive the Application Fee Form](#) located on the NJCEP website.
- Among other terms and conditions, all approved projects are subject to minimum research and monitoring requirements as laid out in Appendix A of the November 2025 Board Order.

Evaluation Criteria and Weighting (November 2025 Board Order)

Table 2. Weighting of Evaluation Criteria – Detailed

Evaluation Criteria	Weight
Maintaining the Affected Land in Active Agricultural or Horticultural Use <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposals for monitoring the quality of agricultural or horticultural use of the land• Minimizing and mitigating negative impacts to farmland• Plan for decommissioning• Plan for stormwater runoff and other environmental issues• Quality of the proposed design of the research plan• Three-year plan for the farming operation <p>Higher preference: Detailed plans and partnered with a NJ research public institution of higher education</p> <p>Bonus points: considerations for crop adaptability, enhanced benefits for mitigation plans, including environmental impacts and pollinator habitats</p>	40%
Incentive Level and Project Costs <p><u>Must include the ADI Program or CSI Program incentive amount, based on New Jersey SREC-II values established by the Board</u></p> <p>Higher preference: Lower cost, no adder requested Lower preference: higher cost with minimal justification</p>	40%

Technical Feasibility and Technical Innovation	10%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interconnection Planning Status	

Meeting the applicable SuSI Program requirements for a Dual-Use Pilot Program Project is a pre-requisite

Higher preference:

Feasibility – consideration of both technical solar feasibility and agricultural/horticultural feasibility, e.g., ability of a project to scale to a commercially viable installation for both agricultural products and solar production.

This includes the consideration of project maturity, i.e., projects that have applied, been approved, identified any distribution system interconnection costs and are demonstrated to be close to commencing construction.

Innovation – design aspects that seek to increase or maintain both solar and agricultural productivity compared to standard designs or practices

Geographic Location, including whether the proposed project is part of an overburdened community or located in an underserved community	10%
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Scoring includes consideration of a project plan for outreach and engagement with the impacted communities

Higher preference: part of an overburdened community or located in an underserved community; representation within New Jersey

Zero points: siting on a prohibited land type without a waiver

Application Requirements

New Requirements

- Completed Forms:
 1. [Data Collection Form](#)
 2. [Solar Array Design Plan Form](#) (instructions & guidance are available)
 3. [Milestone Reporting Form](#)
 4. [Permit Form](#)
- A completed [Cost Information Sheet](#) (instructions & guidance are available)
- [Scaled Site Plan](#) signed and sealed by a licensed professional engineer
- A [soil map](#) of the project site
- *Now required:* New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection [Permit Readiness Checklist](#)
- Additional application questions in the portal (see checklist for complete list)

From Pre-Qualification

- [Signed Affidavit](#) attesting to the historical agricultural or horticultural use of the land prior to the installation of a Dual-Use Solar Energy Project
- [Farmland Assessment Form \(FA-1\)](#) (copy only)
- [Certification forms](#)
- [Copy of a written lease agreement or other legally-binding agreement\(s\)](#)
- An [updated Municipal Tax Map](#) or similar
- For net metered solar facilities, a copy of the most recent [Utility Bill](#) showing the most recent 12 months of historic electricity consumption
- [Siting waiver](#) (if proposed project is located on prohibited land uses)

Data Collection Form

- A. DUAL-USE PILOT PROGRAM TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Page 1
- B. PROGRAM DEFINITIONS: Page 1
- C. PROJECT CONTACTS AND PROJECT IDENTIFICATION: Page 1
- D. AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION: Pages 2-4
- E. RESEARCH PLAN: Page 5
- F. PLAN FOR STORMWATER RUNOFF AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: Page 6
- G. DECOMMISSIONING PLAN: Page 6
- H. AGRICULTURAL PLAN, ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND INFORMATION (OPTIONAL): Page 7
- I. RESEARCH PLAN, ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND INFORMATION (OPTIONAL): Page 8
- J. PLAN FOR STORMWATER RUNOFF AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES-ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND INFORMATION (OPTIONAL): Page 9
- K. DECOMMISSIONING PLAN: ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND INFORMATION (OPTIONAL): Page 10

Solar Array Design Form

- You will be asked to enter details about the array design for your proposed project including the information below and total acreage of the array and control areas, percent farmable land, etc.

Check box if any information has changed from Pre-Qualification Application/Expression of Interest <input type="checkbox"/>		
SECTION A. SOLAR ARRAY		
1. Please select the appropriate tracking:	2. Type of Solar Panel:	
Vertical <input type="checkbox"/>	Single Sided <input type="checkbox"/>	
Fixed <input type="checkbox"/>	Bifacial <input type="checkbox"/>	
Single Axis <input type="checkbox"/>	If bifacial, include bifaciality factor if known or bifacial gain: _____	
Dual Axis <input type="checkbox"/>		
Other <input type="checkbox"/>		
If Other: _____		
SECTION B. SOLAR PANEL DIMENSIONS - PLEASE SEE THE SOLAR ARRAY GUIDANCE DOCUMENT		
For All Systems please provide the following:		
1. The panel width (parallel to the run of the row) _____ ft.		
2. The panel length (perpendicular to the run of the row) (if vertical PV, vertical panel dimension) _____ ft.		
For Fixed Tilt Systems please provide the following:		
1. The height of the lowest panel edge is _____ feet above ground		
2. The tilt angle _____ degrees from horizontal		
3. The distance between edges of solar panels (gap) _____ ft.		
For Tracking Systems, please provide the following:		
1. The maximum tilt angle +/- is _____ degrees from horizontal		
2. The height of the lowest panel edge at the maximum tilt angle is _____ feet above ground		
3. The height of the pivot point is _____ feet above ground		
4. The distance between solar panels in horizontal position (gap) _____ ft.		

Milestone Reporting Form

- You will submit either EDC Interconnection or PJM Interconnection form, according to your interconnection plans. Example below is EDC form.

SECTION B: PROJECT MILESTONES				
For proposed net metered projects OR grid supply PURPA qualifying facilities interconnecting through an EDC, fill out the details of your interconnection progress in the following table:				
	Milestone	Information	Date Achieved	Date Expected
1	Submitted interconnection application to EDC - (Please specify Level I, II or III)			
2	System Impact Study required?			
3	Facility Study required?			
4	Part I Interconnection Agreement signed			
5	Part II Interconnection Agreement signed			

Example: EDC Interconnection form above

Permit Form

- Receiving all permits and approvals is not required prior to submitting an application.
- A meeting with NJDEP's Office of Permitting and Project Navigation (OPPN) is recommended but not required.
- You will be asked to list all permits, approvals, or other authorizations that will be needed for the construction and operation of the proposed project pursuant to local, state, and federal laws and regulations and note if a permit is discretionary.

Permit Name and Description	Permitting Agency/Entity	Date Permit Applied	Date Permit Received	Permit Number, if applicable

Adder Calculations & Project Costs

- The “proxy” baseline incentive, or reference value, for CSI-eligible projects has been updated to **\$64.71/MWh** (i.e., 90% of the lowest Tranche 1 award in the most recent CSI Program solicitation)
- In the Cost Information Sheet, the expenses in the “Incremental Costs/Savings” column will be used to determine your adder value. Do not double-count costs in the completion of the tables. **Each proposed expense must be fully justified.**
- New set of FAQs - <https://www.njcleanenergy.com/frequently-asked-questions-pre-application-opening>

A	B	C	D	E
Table 1: Installation Itemized Expenses				
Expense Item	Agrivoltaic	Photovoltaic	Incremental Costs/Savings (Difference)	Item Justification
Modules			Auto calculation for this column D=B-C	Free Form Field
Inverters And Optimizers				
Mounting Structures and Hardware				
Miscellaneous Components				
Site Preparation & Installation				
Electrician Labor & Material				
Fencing				
System Design, Management, Admin Costs				
Legal				
Grid Connection				
Civil/Environmental Engineering				
Soil Protection Plans				
Surveying				
Racking Design				
Permits and Fees				
Bonding				
Engineering				
Project Management				
Commissioning, Startup				
Overhead				

Add additional rows if needed

A	B	C	D	E
Table 2: Operating Expenses Over 15 years				
Expense Item	Agrivoltaic	Photovoltaic	Incremental costs/savings (Difference)	Item Justification
Land Cost			Auto-calculation D=B-C	Free Form Field
Operation & Maintenance (non-vegetation)				
Vegetation Maintenance/Mowing				
Surveillance				
Research and Monitoring				
Insurance				
Repair Services				
Property Tax				

Portal Application Preview

[Home](#)[Apply Now](#)[My Applications](#)[Administratively Determined Incentive \(ADI\)](#)[Community Solar Energy \(CSEP\)](#)[Competitive Solar Incentive \(CSI\)](#)[Remote Net Metering \(RNM\)](#)[Home](#)[Apply Now](#)[My Applications](#)[Administratively Determined Incentive \(ADI\)](#)[Community Solar Energy \(CSEP\)](#)[Competitive Solar Incentive \(CSI\)](#)[Remote Net Metering \(RNM\)](#)

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Email Address: *

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www.nj.gov/bpu

Next Steps: Award Process

- Selected projects will be announced via Board Order no more than 180 days following receipt of the application. Projects will receive a letter from BPU Staff providing notification of or denial of an award. Please note: this letter provides conditional approval only, contingent on the project's submission and completion of a registration package.
- Consistent with the SuSI Program's registration process, projects will receive final approval only when their registration packages have been approved and other terms and conditions, per the Board Order, have been met.

Resources for Application

- [NJCEP Dual-Use Pilot Program webpage](#)
 - › General FAQs
 - › FAQs for Pre-Application Opening
 - › Guidance document for Farmers
 - › Adder Instructions & Guidance
 - › Solar Array Design Instructions & Guidance
- [Rutgers Agrivoltaics Program webpage](#)
- October 2024 and November 2025 Board Orders
- All resources previously made available for pre-qualification (EOI) phase



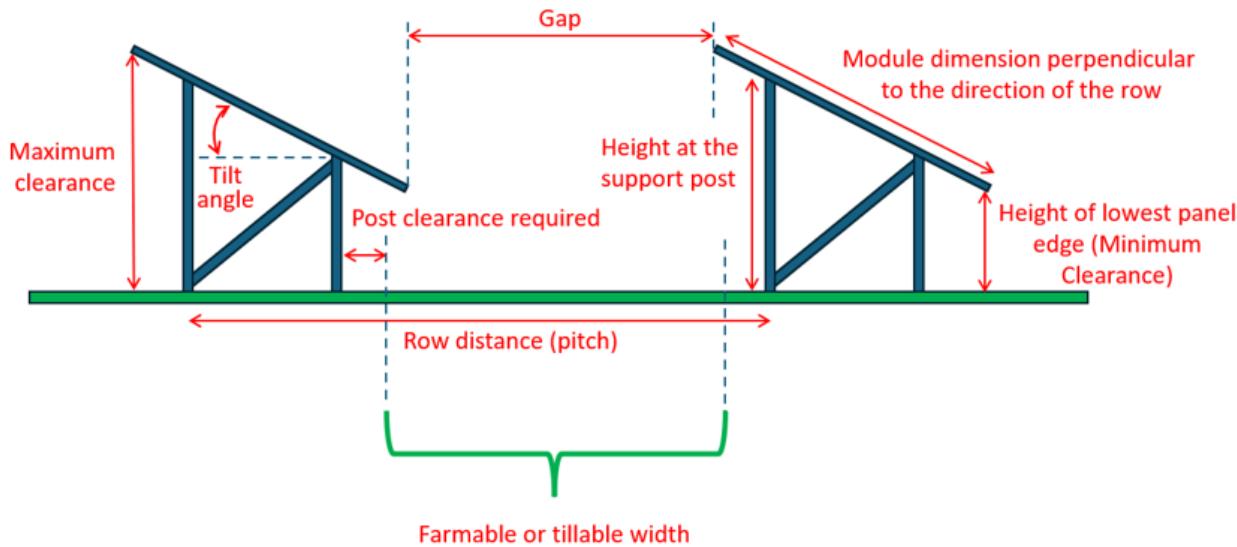
Q&A

1. Please use the raise hand function
2. Limit questions to 1-2 minutes
3. Staff cannot make any statements about the Notice of Proposed Substantial Changes Upon Adoption. Please refer to Docket No. [QX24080597](#).

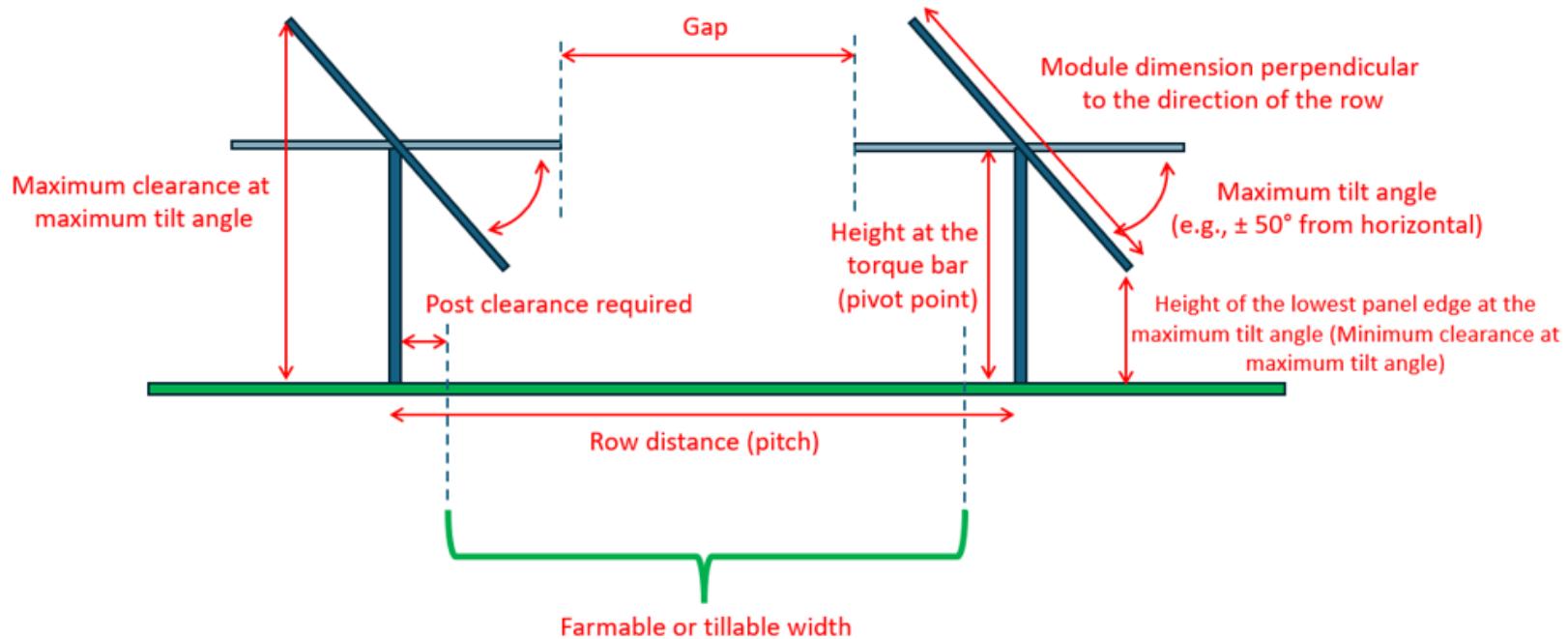


Appendix

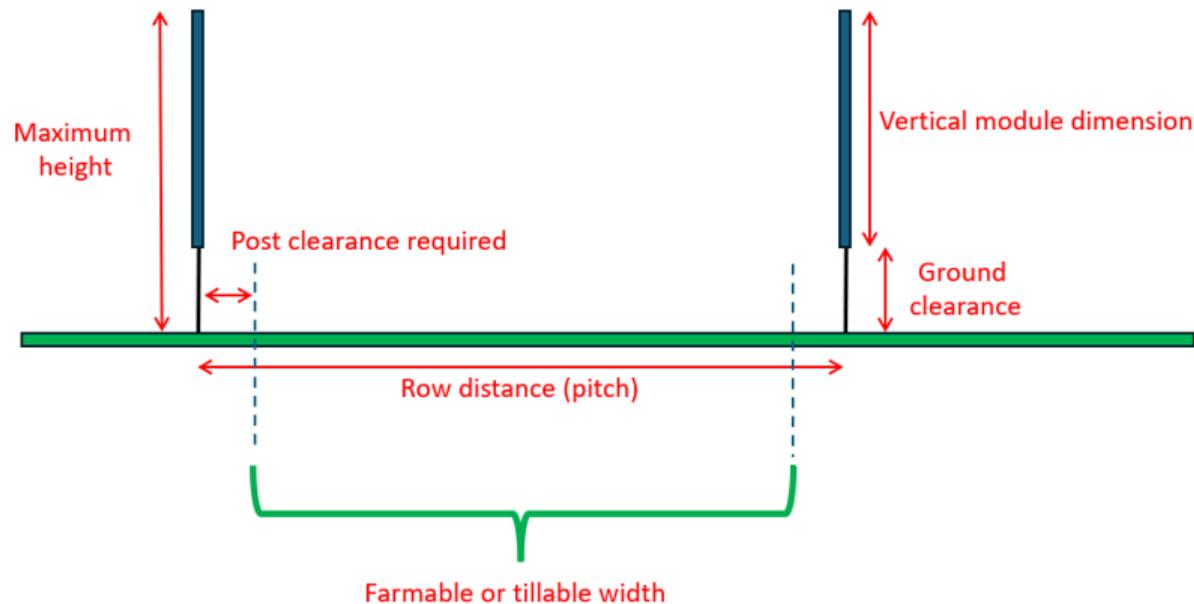
Example of Fixed Tilt System Dimensions for Reporting Purposes



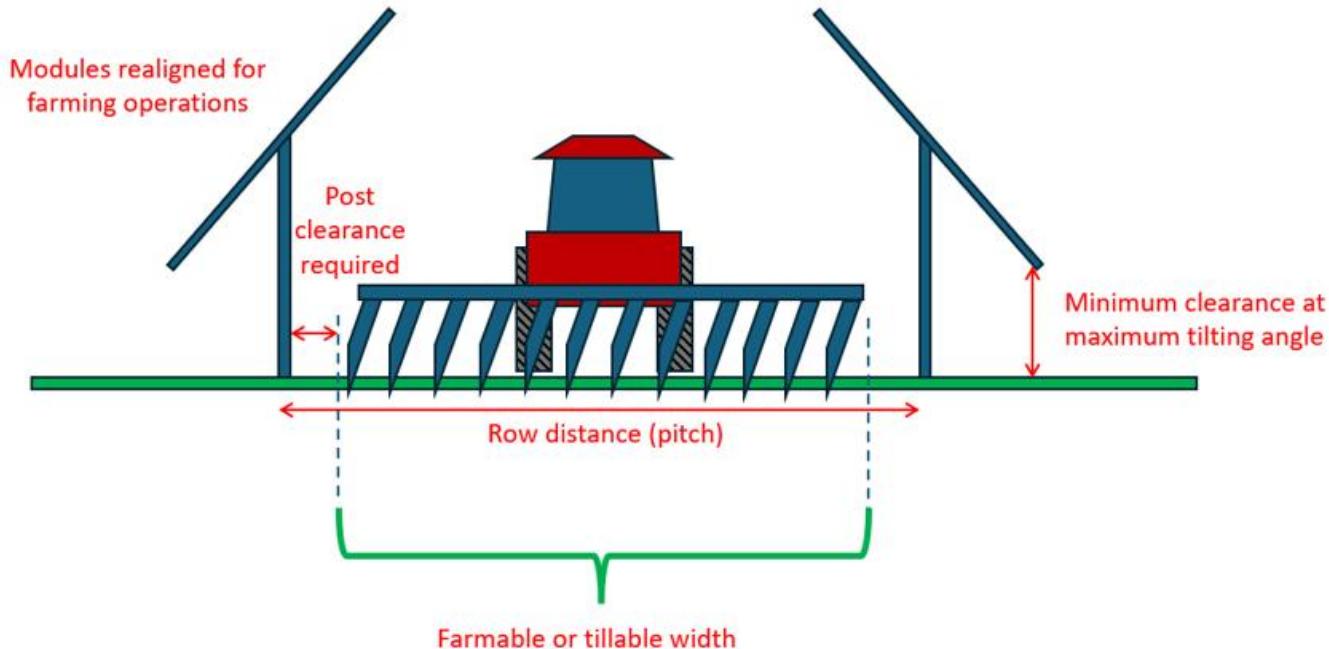
Example of Single-Axis Tracker Dimensions for Reporting Purposes



Example of Vertical BiFacial System Dimensions for Reporting Purposes



Farming Scenario: Single-Axis Trackers



Calculation Example

Calculation example

System Characteristics:

Project area: 6 acres

Total acreage of proposed array area (including balance of system equipment): 3 acres

Single-axis trackers with an 8 feet pivot point

Panel width in ft: 3.28 ft (parallel to the run of the row)

Panel length in ft: 6.56 ft (perpendicular to the run of the row)

120 panels per row, 7 rows of 420 ft each

Electrical Equipment area: 200 (10*20) ft

Distance between rows, i.e., pitch distance in ft: 32 ft

Farmable or tillable width between rows in ft: 28 ft

Calculations:

- Proposed array area in ft² = 130,680 (3-acreage*43,560) ft²

- Turnaround area in ft²: 29,040 (60*242*2) ft²

- Ground coverage ratio (GCR)= 0.21 (6.56/32)

- Expected agriculturally usable area in proposed array area (i.e., area below and adjacent to solar equipment)= 111,160 ((28*7*420)+29,040-200) ft²

- Expected agriculturally unusable area in proposed array area (i.e., inaccessible due to solar equipment)= 19,520 (130,680-111,160) ft²

- Percent farmable land= 85% (111,160/130,680*100)

