

Connexus and Northrop Grumman have shared environmental sustainability goals and desire to partner in developing solar in an unused corner of Northrop Grumman's property that falls outside its hazardous areas onsite.

Connexus is subject to the Minnesota mandate for utilities to evolve their generation resource mix to be 100% carbon free by 2040. As part of the strategy to comply with this mandate, Connexus is looking to develop distributed energy resources in areas that do not remove opportunities for future residential development and/or agriculture uses. Given the operations at this site, solar is a good *"fit"* as residential development and agriculture are not options.

All the power generated from this solar project will stay within the local area. This power will not flow back onto the bulk transmission system.

The site to be developed has characteristics similar to Agriculture Districts, where solar is allowed, in that it will be seeded into pollinator habitat. In addition to the benefits of locally generated renewable energy, creating and maintaining pollinator habitat contributes to ecological sustainability, food security, and human well-being, making it a valuable investment in both environmental and societal health.