

Utility Scale Solar coming to Price Electric's Service Territory

By William L. Caynor Sr., Price Electric Cooperative CEO

In an effort to reduce carbon emissions and increase renewable energy in the generation mix, your energy provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC), has finalized Purchase Power agreements (PPA) with two developers for 15 Megawatts (MW) of renewable energy. That's equivalent to Price Electric's peak demand in the winter season. Twelve utility scale projects were selected out of the 25 Class A Cooperative members in the Dairyland Power group. A utility-scale solar facility is one which generates solar energy and feeds it into the grid, supplying a utility. Virtually every utility-scale solar facility has a Purchase Power agreement with a utility, guaranteeing a market for its energy for a fixed term of time.

The largest utility scale solar project selected is within the Price Electric Cooperative service territory. Dairyland has finalized this agreement with groSolar, of White River Junction, Vermont. The project developer, groSolar, will construct and maintain a 2.5 MW solar array, which will be placed next to the Crane Chase substation on Short Cut Road, located in the Town of Flambeau. They have dubbed the project, "Flambeau Solar Partners LLC."

A tracking system will also be installed, which will increase the efficiency by 15 percent because the 114 solar panels will track with the sun, maximizing the full potential of the sun's alignment.

Construction is planned to start this June or July with a startup date of somewhere from the end of September to no later than the end of 2016. In its first year, this array will produce enough clean energy to power 470 homes in your community and will reduce carbon emissions by as much as removing 682 cars from our road systems.



It will be an impressive site of 20 acres of solar array tracking with the sun, and definitely worth a drive, just to see.