
RESRFP25-1 Exhibit 2 to Appendix 2. Acronyms and Definitions

Please Note: Agriculture-specific terms are defined by Agriculture and Markets Law unless otherwise noted.

Term / Phrase	Definition
Active Agricultural Production	Total number of acres of Cultivated Crops, Hay Land, and Pasture in the FA at any time in last five years.
Agricultural Plan	Agricultural Plan should be consistent with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Guidelines for Solar Energy Projects – Construction Mitigation for Agricultural Lands to the maximum extent practicable, and should describe a plan to avoid, minimize, and mitigate agricultural impacts to active agricultural lands (<i>i.e.</i> , land in active agriculture production defined as active three of the last five years) within NYS Agricultural Land Classified Mineral Soil Groups 1 through 4. (19 CRR-NY 900-2.16(c), Exhibit 15: Agricultural resources).
Agrivoltaics	A simultaneous use of land for solar power generation and agricultural production “crops, livestock and livestock products,” as that phrase is defined by New York State Agriculture and Markets Law (AML) § 301(2).
Agroforestry	The intentional integration of trees and shrubs into crop and animal farming systems as further defined by the USDA, however for the purposes of the Scorecard, it is to be limited to such systems that are actively producing “crops, livestock and livestock products”, as that phrase is defined by New York State Agriculture and Markets Law (AML) § 301(2).
Bid Facility	An electric generating station that has been submitted by the Proposer for consideration in response to this RFP.
Bid Proposal	An offer to sell a Bid Quantity of RECs from a Bid Facility at a proposed Price Structure and Contract Tenor.
Const	Construction. The strategy occurs during the construction phase of a project.
Co-Utilization	A simultaneous use of land for solar power generation and one or more land use. The specifications for the co-utilization use(s) are defined within the referenced strategy and may include agrivoltaics.
Cultivated Crops	The land used for raising crops assessed using, at minimum, the two most recent available updates to the National Land Cover Database (NLCD) datasets (Data Source 2019 & 2021 NLCD, Relevant Data Layer: 2019 & 2021 Map: cultivated crops), supplemented by additional information and/or resources.
DEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Term / Phrase	Definition
Decommissioning and Site Restoration Plan	A plan that outlines the required steps to remove the solar system, dispose of or recycle its components, and restore the land to its original state following construction, including restoration of native vegetation and forests, pending landowner agreement.
Design Workshop	A meeting where information is shared with a group of stakeholders, stakeholders are engaged in a discussion of feedback and ideas, stakeholder input is collected in response to the information shared and discussion held, and stakeholders are able to help co-design the end project, solutions, ideas, action, etc. This meeting could be open to the public, could require a registration process, and/or could be invite-only but must include community members. Workshops can take place at a neutral site, at the project site, or at an existing operating facility.
Facility Area (FA)	All land occupied during the commercial operation of the generation facility, the associated interconnection equipment as verified through the Operational Certification process. Generally, this will include all areas within the facility's perimeter security fence(s) and the applicable facility related improvements outside of fenced areas. The Facility Area shall include the area "inside the fence" of the project including all fencing inclosing the mechanical equipment such as the solar arrays, inverters, location of any combiner boxes, fuses, switches, meters, distribution boards, monitoring systems such as Balance of Systems components, interconnection equipment, and stormwater controls. The Facility Area shall additionally include improvements of the project "outside of the fence" including access roads, parking areas, stormwater controls and other permanent facilities, or structures installed at the Facility Area, except vegetative landscape screenings or appropriately buried utilities such as electrical conductors or conduit(s) that do not impact Forest Land during installation.
Focus Group	A meeting where information is shared with a specific group of stakeholders who were formally invited, stakeholders are engaged in a discussion of feedback and ideas, and stakeholder input is collected in response to the information shared and discussion held. This group should be around 8-10 people and not exceed 10. A series of focus groups can be held if needed. Focus Groups can take place at a neutral site, at the project site, or at an existing operating facility.
Forest / Forest(ed) Land	Areas dominated by trees generally taller than 5 meters, and greater than 20% of total vegetation cover assessed using, at minimum, the two most recent available updates to the National Land Cover Database (NLCD) datasets (Data Source 2019 & 2021 NLCD, Relevant Data Layer: 2019 & 2021 Map Deciduous Forest, Evergreen Forest, and Mixed Forest).
Forest Restoration	Activities that initiate or accelerate the recovery of a currently degraded forest ecosystem in respect to its health, integrity, and sustainability.
Living Vegetation	Estimated sum of carbon stored in aboveground & belowground biomass of woody vegetation, in milligrams per hectare.
Mature Forest	Forest and area containing trees with greater than 12-inch average diameter at breast height, not including individual standalone trees outside a Forested area or hedgerows.

Term / Phrase	Definition
Mg/ha	Milligrams per hectare
Mineral Soil Groups (MSG) 1-4	Mineral Soil Groups 1-4 as identified in the 2024 New York State Agricultural Land Classification issued by NYSAGM for the applicable county.
Newsletter	An information tool where information about the project is physically or digitally shared periodically to stakeholders that either come across it (physical version) or are signed up to receive it (digital version usually via email). At minimum, it should include all updates related to the project, opportunities for engagement, a link to the project website, and contact information.
NYGATS	New York Generation Attribute Tracking System (NYGATS) – The tracking system that records electricity generation attribute information within New York State, and processes generation attribute information from energy imported and consumed within New York State, as a basis for creating generation attribute certificates, including Tier 1 RECs. NYGATS will create exactly one Tier 1 REC per MWh of RES eligible generation.
NYSAGM	New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets
NYSERDA	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
One-on-One Meeting	A meeting where information is shared with a specific stakeholder who was formally invited, the stakeholder is engaged in a discussion of feedback and ideas, and the stakeholder’s input is collected in response to the information shared and discussion held. A series of one-on-one meetings can be held as needed. One-on-one meetings can take place at a neutral site, at the project site, or at an existing operating facility.
Pasture/Hay Land	The land where animals fed on the grass and the land where grass was grown to be made into hay assessed using, at minimum, the two most recent available updates to the National Land Cover Database (NLCD) datasets (Data Source 2019 & 2021 NLCD, Relevant Data Layer: 2019 & 2021 Map: pasture/hay), supplemented by additional information and/or resources.
PostC	Post-construction. The strategy occurs after construction, during the operation and maintenance phase of a project.
Potential Community Intervenor	Any person residing within a municipality within which the Bid Facility is proposed, or residing outside the municipality within which the Bid Facility is proposed, but within one (1) mile of a proposed Bid Facility or any non-profit organization that can demonstrate a concrete and localized interest that may be affected by a proposed Bid Facility and that such interest has a significant nexus to their mission. For the purposes of this definition, the term “residing” shall include any resident or owner of property within the geographical limitations described above.
PreC	Pre-construction. The strategy occurs prior to construction, during the planning and design phase of a project.

Term / Phrase	Definition
Project Website	An information tool that is comprised of a set of related web pages located under a single domain name. At minimum, it should showcase all of the basic information about the project, all published and formal plans related to the project, all updates related to the project, opportunities for engagement, and contact information.
Proposer(s)	The business entity that submits a Bid Proposal in response to this RFP.
Public Forum	A meeting with sufficient advance notice where information is shared with a group of stakeholders, stakeholders are engaged in a discussion of feedback and ideas, and stakeholder input is collected in response to the information shared and discussion held. This meeting must be open to the public, especially including anyone who feels they would be impacted/affected by the project. Forums can take place at a neutral site, at the project site, or at an existing operating facility.
Qualified Professional	A forester, environmental scientist, or biologist who is familiar with identifying land cover types via desktop review, and capable of identifying land cover types during in-field investigations. The Qualified Professional should be familiar with how to identify signs of 1) Agroforestry activities, and 2) forest harvesting activities that have occurred within the past 5 years (such as clear cutting or selective logging).
REC	The electronic record of generation data created by NYGATS and representing all of the attributes, including all Environmental Attributes, of one MWh of electric generation from a Renewable Energy System delivered into the New York Control Area and registered with the NYGATS tracking system. The attributes represented in each REC include all environmental characteristics, claims, credits, benefits, emissions reductions, offsets, allowances, allocations, howsoever characterized, denominated, measured or entitled, attributable to the generation of Actual Eligible Production by a Project, including but not limited to: (i) any direct emissions or any avoided emissions of pollutants to the air, soil or water including but not limited to sulfur oxides (Sox), nitrogen oxides (Nox), carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter and other pollutants; (ii) any direct or avoided emissions of carbon dioxide (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄) and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) that have been or may be determined by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to contribute to the actual or potential threat of altering the Earth's climate by trapping heat in the atmosphere; (iii) all set-aside allowances and/or allocations from emissions trading programs made unnecessary for compliance in such program as a result of performance under the Agreement, including but not limited to allocations available under 6 NYCRR §§ 204, 237 and 238; and (iv) all credits, certificates, registrations, recordations, or other memorializations of whatever type or sort, representing any of the above.
RFP	Request for Proposal
Scorecard	New York Solar Smart Siting Scorecard 2025
Site Walk	A meeting where information is shared with a group of stakeholders with the addition of a visual, in-person reference, stakeholders are engaged in a discussion of feedback and ideas, and stakeholder input is collected in response to the information shared and discussion

Term / Phrase	Definition
	held. This meeting must take place in the location that is most relevant to the project goals and outcomes and can be open to the public.
State	New York State
Step Two Bid Proposal	A competitive Bid Proposal step, through which NYSERDA will: (1) examine Bid Proposals to determine whether they demonstrate that the Bid Facility and Proposer meet the Minimum Threshold Requirements; and (2) for Bid Proposals that meet those Minimum Threshold Requirements, a competitive evaluation based on price and non-price factors.
Survey	An information-exchange tool where information is physically or digitally shared with a group of stakeholders and stakeholder input is collected in response to the information shared. This should be open to the public, especially including anyone who feels they would be impacted/affected by the project.
Visual Survey	A version of a survey where information is physically or digitally shared with a group of stakeholders and that information includes images, videos, and any other form of visual media that would supplement the information. Stakeholder input is collected in response to the information shared. This can be open to the public, especially including anyone who feels they would be impacted/affected by the project.
Workbook	RESRFP25-1 New York Solar Smart Siting Scorecard Workbook (Exhibit 1 to Appendix 2).
Young Forest	Young Forest is an area of land containing “tree seedlings, saplings, woody vines, shrubs, grasses, and flowering plants growing together” as defined by NYSDEC. These are early-successional habitats that develop after a disturbance such as fire, flooding, clearcutting, abandonment of farmland, and insect or disease outbreak. Young Forests persist for 0 to 20 years before maturing to a mid-successional forest stand when pole-sized trees become more prominent. Young Forest can look similar to shrubland but can be differentiated by having tree seedlings and saplings as the dominant vegetation type.