

Renewable energy is important to a sustainable future, and it is important that while adapting to renewable energy sources, we are sensitive to historic sites that communities cherish.

Consider how the siting of a ground mounted solar installation might affect present or nearby historic and cultural resources. Thoughtful considerations should be given to *sense of place* where large solar installations are proposed.

SITE SELECTION

- ◆ Consider scale of project, proximity, and effect on resources.
- ◆ Explore options to avoid cultural sites, historic buildings, and archaeologically sensitive areas in cases where quality of place would be diminished.
- ◆ Large scale solar installations sited in historic viewsheds should not result in significant aesthetic impacts leading to diminishment of public enjoyment and appreciation of an inventoried resource, or one that impairs the character or quality of such a place (DEC Program Policy).
- ◆ The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 & the 1980 NYS Historic Preservation Act, both acknowledge the importance in protecting our heritage. Projects funded, permitted, licensed, or approved by a federal agency are subject to Section 106 review, while at the state level they are subject to Section 14.09.



*Vegetation, berms, setback screening.
credit: Scenic Hudson*

MITIGATE IMPACT

When historic sites are located near potential solar installations, minimize and mitigate visual impacts:

- ◆ Keep components at low profile and/or siting at a lower elevation.
- ◆ Utilize existing landscapes by naturally screening behind slopes and existing trees or vegetation.
- ◆ Apply appropriate setbacks, to minimize impact.
- ◆ Where no natural buffering exists, include vegetation and berms that shield the installation from view.
- ◆ Consider effects of glare flash and glinting within the setting.
- ◆ Use fixed systems for least impact. If panels rotate, consider effects from all angles.

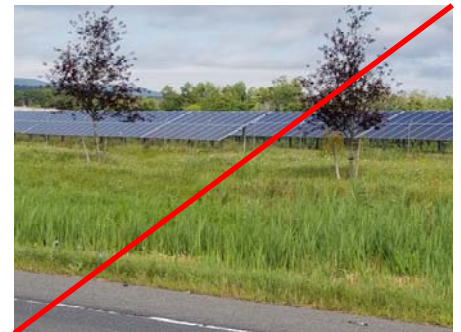


*Low profile, lower elevation, vegetation screening.
credit: Scenic Hudson*

AVOID

Where it creates an adverse effect *adjacent to/near* cultural/historic resources, avoid:

- ◆ Omission of appropriate buffers/screening when installation is within the public viewshed.
- ◆ Use of visually intrusive accessory infrastructure, that may cause an adverse visual impact on viewshed.
- ◆ Use of materials incompatible with existing landscape (e.g. chain link fencing, inappropriate buffers).



No buffer from roadway & chain link fencing.

For additional resources, please visit our website at www.preservenys.org