

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**  
**Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office**

**Environmental Notification Form**

*For Office Use Only*

EEA#: \_\_\_\_\_

MEPA Analyst: \_\_\_\_\_

*The information requested on this form must be completed in order to submit a document electronically for review under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.*

Project Name: Town of Hampden Landfill Solar

Street Address: 18 Cross Road

Municipality: Hampden

Watershed: Connecticut River Water Shed

Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:

Latitude: 42.064868

Longitude: 72.396462

Estimated commencement date: 8/1/2021

Estimated completion date: 3/1/2022 for solar and battery, utility work may extend to 8/1/2022.

Project Type: Solar and Battery Storage

Status of project design: 95% complete

Proponent: Hampden Landfill Solar, LLC c/o Ameresco

Street Address: 111 Speen Street

Municipality: Framingham

State: MA

Zip Code: 01701

Name of Contact Person: Mickey Marcus

Firm/Agency: SWCA

Street Address: 15 Research Drive

Municipality: Amherst

State: MA

Zip Code: 01002

Phone: (413) 531-7156

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: mmarcus@swca.com

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If this is an Expanded Environmental Notification Form (ENF) (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) or a Notice of Project Change (NPC), are you requesting: No

a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))

☐ Yes ☒ No

a Special Review Procedure? (see 301 CMR 11.09)

☐ Yes ☒ No

a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)

☐ Yes ☒ No

a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)

☐ Yes ☒ No

(Note: Greenhouse Gas Emissions analysis must be included in the Expanded ENF.)

Which MEPA review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03)?

**11.03(b)(2) -Greater than two acres of disturbance of designated priority habitat, as defined in 321 CMR 10.02, that results in a take of a state-listed endangered or threatened species or species of special concern.**

Which State Agency Permits will the project require? **1. Streamlined Notice of Intent & Massachusetts Endangered Species Act Review with the Hampden Conservation Commission (Commission) and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). 2. Conservation Management Permit with Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP), Under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA). NHESP has issued a "Take" for this project. MassDEP BWP SW 36 Post-Closure Use Permit (Major) for the former landfill.**

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an Agency of the Commonwealth, including the Agency name and the amount of funding or land area in acres: **This project is not subject to financial assistance or a land transfer.**

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
Total site acreage	44		
New acres of land altered		+17.50 excluding the landfill area which is already developed	
Acres of impervious area	1.61	+0.68	2.29
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0	
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0	
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0	
<b>STRUCTURES N/A</b>			
Gross square footage			
Number of housing units			
Maximum height (feet)			
<b>TRANSPORTATION N/A</b>			
Vehicle trips per day			
Parking spaces			
<b>WASTEWATER N/A</b>			
Water Use (Gallons per day)			
Water withdrawal (GPD)			
Wastewater generation/treatment (GPD)			
Length of water mains (miles)			
Length of sewer mains (miles)			
<p>Has this project been filed with MEPA before?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (EEA #_____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>			
<p>Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (EEA #_____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>			

## **GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION – all proponents must fill out this section**

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The project proposes the installation of an approximately 5.46 megawatt (MW) direct current (DC) solar and battery storage facility on portions of the Town of Hampden's former and capped landfill, as well as on portions of upland forest (east side of the capped landfill). The Town of Hampden has solicited a solar company to install solar generation on the town landfill (Hampden Open Space and Recreation Report 2017) to benefit the Town of Hampden through lease and tax payments. Hampden is a small town and the development of solar generation has been identified by the Town as a priority for residents. Additionally, the Town has been pursuing solar development on the former landfill location for several years.

The project has been designed in consultation with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) review biologists as the project site is located with Priority Habitat of Rare Species and Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife. NHESP has issued a "take" for this project and a Conservation and Management Permit will be submitted. In consultation with NHESP, the project has been designed so as to not impact Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW), and work will not be conducted within Riverfront Area to an unnamed stream on the south side of the project site. Tree clearing will be outside the 200-foot Riverfront Area. Limited shade management will occur within the 100-foot buffer zone to some BVW, but will be limited to cutting the trees and leaving the stumps in place. Work will not be allowed in the first 25 feet of buffer zone to BVW. Stormwater detention basins will be installed outside the 200-foot Riverfront area and discharge of stormwater will not be to BVW or buffer zone to BVW. Mitigation plans have been developed that will include on-site and off-site conservation restrictions. This information will be included with the Conservation and Management Permit (CMP) submitted to NHESP.

Describe the existing conditions and land uses on the project site:

The property consists of a former capped landfill and forested area that totals approximately 44 acres and is within NHESP designated Priority Habitat of Rare Species and Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife. The project site consists of a mix of land cover types, including mixed hard/softwood forested upland and wetland, scrub/shrub wetland, a perennial stream, and developed areas. Developed areas include impervious surface area, a compost area, a cell tower, road shoulders, rip-rap swales and berms, and the capped landfill. The paved entrance to the project site originates from Cross Road, which bounds the landfill parcel at the west. Scantic Road and residential lots on South Monson Road are located to the south of the landfill parcel. Open wooded areas are immediately north of the landfill and to the east. Resource areas including BVW, and an unnamed stream were delineated and approved in accordance with an Order of Resource Area Determination.

Describe the proposed project and its programmatic and physical elements:

The project proposes the installation of an approximately 5.46 MW DC solar and battery storage facility. Two types of foundation installations are proposed for the solar array: a ballasted design (concrete blocks) is proposed to be installed at the closed landfill portion of the project so that damage to landfill cap (liner) will not occur; a soil anchoring racking design using either screw anchors or driven posts will be used for the remainder of the non-landfill portions of the installation. Two gravel access roads are proposed from the existing paved transfer station road for entry into the interior of the layout. Electrical equipment consisting of inverters, transforms, switches, and battery storage will be installed on concrete pads. A chain link fence is proposed to encompass both the ballasted design and the racking system, equipment, and battery storage facilities.

The project has been designed in consultation with NHESP. Impacts to BVW will not occur. Impacts to Riverfront Area will not occur. Stormwater features will be located 300 feet from Riverfront Area and outside of buffer zone to BVW. Discharge of stormwater will be outside of buffer zone to BVW. Shade management within the 25-to-100-foot portion of the buffer zone to areas of BVW is proposed. This will be limited to cutting trees but leaving the tree stumps. Grading will be limited to the east side of the site and areas where solar panels and detention basins will be installed.

Construction for this project is anticipated to take up to 6 months. Sediment and erosion controls will be installed prior to the start of construction and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and Construction General Permit will

be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency prior to the start of construction. Post construction activities will include equipment maintenance at the site that is summarized in project Operation and Maintenance Plan. This will include vegetation maintenance within and around the solar panels, work to maintain vegetation for shade management. Turtle protection plans have also been developed and will be finalized for the construction phase and post-construction phase of this project. The project will have no impact to the municipalities infrastructure as there will be no building or staff permanently on-site following construction.

*NOTE: The project description should summarize both the project's direct and indirect impacts (including construction period impacts) in terms of their magnitude, geographic extent, duration and frequency, and reversibility, as applicable. It should also discuss the infrastructure requirements of the project and the capacity of the municipal and/or regional infrastructure to sustain these requirements into the future.*

Describe the on-site project alternatives (and alternative off-site locations, if applicable), considered by the proponent, including at least one feasible alternative that is allowed under current zoning, and the reasons(s) that they were not selected as the preferred alternative:

A "no build" alternative was considered for this project. However, this was not an acceptable alternative as the Town of Hampden had identified the development of solar generation as a priority for the residents of the Town of Hampden. This was outlined in the Hampden Open Space and Recreation Report of 2017. Installation of solar panels on the Town Landfill is specifically outlined as a targeted goal in the plan. The Town has also highlighted the importance of preserving open space and farmland as large lot developments have been trending in recent years. This property was a practical choice as it cannot serve as farmland or a housing development. Hampden had solicited a solar company to install a solar generation facility that would benefit the Town through lease and tax payments. Without the solar project, this economic incentive would not be available to the Town. Not building the project would not meet the project goal of providing clean renewable sources of energy for electrical distribution.

The project was proposed and has been redesigned in consultation with NHESP so that impacts to resource area such as BVW, Riverfront area and habitat of rare species has been reduced. Panels, originally proposed for the eastern side of the project site, in close proximity to resource areas and rare species habitat, were moved to developed areas including landscaped areas associated with the sites transfer station. Panel row widths were also reduced so that additional panels could be placed in developed areas. The project has considered and included features that avoid and minimize damage to the undeveloped portions of the project site and take advantage of the previously developed areas. The project now has no impacts to BVW. Impacts to Riverfront Area will not occur. Stormwater features will be located 300 feet from Riverfront Area and outside of buffer zone to BVW. Discharge of stormwater will be outside of buffer zone to BVW. Shade management within the 25-foot buffer zone to areas of BVW is proposed. This will be limited to cutting trees but leaving the tree stumps. Grading will be limited to the east side of the site and areas where solar panels and detention basins will be installed. The project will be permitted with NHESP through a CMP. The CMP will outline the mitigation associated with the project that includes conservation restrictions on-site, and off-site locations.

**NOTE:** *The purpose of the alternatives analysis is to consider what effect changing the parameters and/or siting of a project, or components thereof, will have on the environment, keeping in mind that the objective of the MEPA review process is to avoid or minimize damage to the environment to the greatest extent feasible. Examples of alternative projects include alternative site locations, alternative site uses, and alternative site configurations.*

**AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN:**

Is the project within or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

- ☐ Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  
☒ No

If yes, does the ACEC have an approved Resource Management Plan? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No;

If yes, describe how the project complies with this plan.

Will there be stormwater runoff or discharge to the designated ACEC? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No;

If yes, describe and assess the potential impacts of such stormwater runoff/discharge to the designated ACEC.