



## Proposed Westlake Solar Center

Today's energy landscape is changing, and JEA is leading the way. We are embarking on a major solar expansion that will increase our current solar energy offerings by over 350 percent. Through the addition of five (5) new local solar farms, JEA will soon provide up to 250 megawatts (MW) of new solar power, making the City of Jacksonville one of the leading solar cities in the nation.

JEA is partnering with EDF Renewables who will be responsible for the initial land development, design, construction, day to day management, operations and maintenance of the five (5) solar projects under a solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). JEA will purchase the clean, green, power as it is generated on a 25-year fixed price contract. The current contracts will feature five (5), 50 megawatt (MW) distributed solar projects strategically located throughout JEA's service territory.

When completed, this portfolio of solar projects will produce enough energy in the summer months for JEA to power approximately one-third of the entire City of Jacksonville while also reducing our dependence on fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas.

One of these planned projects, the Westlake Solar Center, is proposed to be constructed on a JEA-owned tract of land bordered by Pritchard Road, Lazy J Road, and Fish Road on Jacksonville's west side (see attached map). This project is currently in the early stages of site due diligence, zoning approval, permitting and design.

JEA and EDF Renewables schedule currently anticipates zoning work will be completed in early 2019, design and permitting by the end of 2019, and construction starting in 2020 (for a period of 8 to 12 months). Final completion of the project and energization of the solar center is expected to occur sometime in 2021. All of these dates are highly subject to change.

JEA will continue to provide additional information to the public throughout both the design and construction phases. If you have any questions regarding this proposed project, please contact JEA's Project Outreach team at 665-7500 or [projectoutreach@jea.com](mailto:projectoutreach@jea.com). More information on this project can be found at our project web page located at [jea.com/westlake](http://jea.com/westlake).



# Westlake Solar Center - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## 1) Why is JEA interested in solar generation?

Generating power from the sun is one of the cleanest and greenest ways to produce electricity. Using solar power helps reduce the level of emissions released into the environment which results in cleaner air and water for everyone. Solar generation will also reduce JEA's dependence on fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas.

## 2) What is the scope of JEA's newly proposed solar projects in Jacksonville?

The Westlake Solar Center is one of five (5) solar projects currently under development in Jacksonville by EDF Renewables, the company contracted by JEA to develop and construct these solar projects. The current program features multiple distributed solar projects located on JEA properties, strategically spread throughout our service territory.

Each of the solar centers will consist of two 25 megawatt (MW) solar arrays. Power will flow from these arrays to multiple existing JEA electric substations. When completed, the solar centers will produce enough energy in the summer months to power approximately 1/3 of JEA's electric customers in the City of Jacksonville.

## 3) What are the names and locations of the five (5) proposed solar centers?

- 1) Westlake Solar Center –JEA property bordered by Pritchard Road, Lazy J Road, and Fish Road
- 2) Cecil Commerce Solar Center- JEA property bordered by Yellow Water Road and North of Wells Road
- 3) Beaver Street Solar Center- JEA property bordered by Old Plank Road and Otis Road
- 4) Forest Trail Solar Center- JEA property adjacent to Plummer Road, near the Duval/Nassau county line
- 5) Deep Creek Solar Center – JEA property bordered by Highway 301 and I-10

## 4) Why did JEA pick this particular location for the Westlake Solar Center?

JEA considered the following criteria in selecting land for the solar expansion:

- ✓ Site must be at least 500 acres
- ✓ Site must be within 5 miles of a JEA substation
- ✓ Site must be located in Duval County
- ✓ Site must be approximately 5 miles from the other 50 MW solar facilities
- ✓ This parcel meets all the aforementioned requirements.

## 5) What is the tentative project schedule for the proposed Westlake Solar Center?

Zoning work will be completed in early 2019, design and permitting by the end of 2019, construction starting in 2020 with a total construction period of 8 to 12 months. Final completion of and energization of the solar center is expected to occur in 2021. All of these dates are highly subject to change.

## 6) What can nearby property owners and neighbors expect during construction of the Westlake Solar Center?

Construction will occur on JEA owned property. Construction traffic can be expected in the area throughout various early stages of the construction (2-4 months) for the removal of the timber, grubbing, site work and to deliver project materials (solar modules, solar inverters, and construction equipment). Additionally, laborers and tradesmen will continue to travel to the site throughout the entire construction window (8 months). Construction activities are generally low impact and consists of site grading, driving of foundation piles, and electrical wiring. Appropriate sediment and erosion control and dust control measures will be utilized during construction to keep the effects of construction inside the project fence.

**7) How will this project impact the land the solar center will be built on?**

This project will have little impact on the land, which has the ability to be returned to agricultural use at the end of its useful life. Good site selection, proper setbacks, appropriate fencing and landscape buffering enable solar projects to blend into the community.

**8) What will the Westlake Solar Center look like when completed?**

The solar farm will include solar panels mounted on steel piles in rows, several inverters on concrete pads, a switchboard and a transmission line to tie into JEA's transmission system. The solar panels and inverter equipment are usually less than 15-feet in height (at their highest tilt position). Roads will allow for maintenance, security and emergency vehicles to access all parts of the solar center. We have several photos of recently built solar centers in Jacksonville on JEA's website located at [jea.com/solargeneration](http://jea.com/solargeneration).

**9) Once built, what will the impact of the solar center be to nearby property owners and neighbors?**

Solar projects are a relatively low impact development option for communities. They are low to the ground (approximately 105 feet above grade), are pollutant free, virtually noiseless, and do not generate air, water or hazardous waste emissions. Additionally, the grass planted under solar arrays has been shown to improve water quality by reducing runoff. Maintenance and traffic is minimal with a landscape crew and technician at the property a couple times a month to perform routine activities at the solar center.

**10) What are the proposed locations of the entrances and exits to the Westlake Solar Center?**

As we are still in the preliminary design phase for this project, the exact entrance and/or exits for each is yet "to be determined". It is possible the solar center site may have multiple access points during and after construction.

**11) How will the Westlake Solar Center be secured?**

The solar farm will have a dedicated access road and fence surrounding the property. Gates will be installed and locked upon entry and exit.

**12) Once the project is completed, how many employees will operate and maintain the facility?**

Post construction, the solar center sites will be maintained by a handful of local EDF Renewables employees in a roving manner and will largely operate unmanned. Clearing and mowing vegetation around the panels and cleaning of the panels may occur several times a year as well as preventive maintenance on electrical equipment.

**13) Will there be a vegetative buffer between the neighboring properties and the Westlake Solar Center? What vegetation is planned for the property once the site is built?**

Selective, non-shading groves of trees will remain on each project site. New vegetation will be planted (per City of Jacksonville requirements) where each project abuts residential use. Additional targeted plant screenings will be considered in areas of high visual impact.

The entire array area will be seeded with grasses similar to what you see along State of Florida roadways. Every effort will be made to include species that promote pollination. Finally, at least five (5) acres of land for each project will be reserved in order to maintain and protect pollinators and preserve native vegetation.

**14) Who do we contact if we have any further questions or concerns about the project?**

If you have any questions regarding this proposed project, please contact JEA's Project Outreach team at 665-7500 or [projectoutreach@jea.com](mailto:projectoutreach@jea.com). For updated project information: [jea.com/westlake](http://jea.com/westlake).