

# Reclamation Security for Solar and Wind Renewable Energy Operations

## Fact Sheet for Landowners

The information below is intended to help Alberta landowners understand the requirements of wind and solar operators regarding security, conservation, and reclamation on their properties.

### New Requirements

#### Registration Required for New Operations

Environment and Protected Areas will require registrations for all solar and wind renewable energy operations. These registrations are designed to protect the environment and ensure responsible management of these projects.

Wind and solar projects will be required to obtain a registration before construction unless they are existing projects. Existing projects are those that obtained approval from the Alberta Utilities Commission by January 1, 2025. Existing projects have until January 1, 2027, to obtain their registration. Registration requirements are described in the [Code of Practice for Solar and Wind Renewable Energy Operations](#) ('the Code').

#### Security Required

Effective January 1, 2025, the Conservation and Reclamation Regulation requires solar and wind renewable energy operators to provide financial security. Financial security for decommissioning and reclamation is designed to ensure funds are available for reclamation should an operator not be able to meet their obligations. There are two options for solar and wind operators to meet the security requirement: landowner negotiated security and Government of Alberta-held security.

### Security Options

Landowner-negotiated security: Landowners and operators may choose to negotiate security within the surface lease agreement. Under this option, the amount of security is not determined by the Alberta government. Operators must sign a declaration as described in the Code when applying for a registration and opting to use the landowner negotiated security. The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) will review the amount to ensure it is adequate, unless it is an existing project. If this option is selected, the landowner is responsible for the cost of completing any necessary decommissioning and reclamation, if the operator is unable to complete their reclamation obligations.

Government of Alberta-held security: For this option, the operator calculates security as specified in the Code and provides it to the Alberta government. The amount of security to be paid is a percentage of the estimated cost of reclamation for parcels of land where the landowner and operator decide to use the Government of Alberta-held security option. The security is held until a reclamation certificate has been issued for the area certified. For projects that received AUC approval after January 1, 2025, an operator must pay 30 per cent at the time of registration and 60 per cent at year 15. For existing projects (those with AUC approval prior to January 1, 2025), the operator must pay 15 per cent at the time of registration and 60 per cent at year 15. A third party, qualified professional must develop the security estimate. If this option is selected, the Alberta government will utilize the security collected to complete necessary reclamation if the operator is unwilling or unable to do so.

The security option used can vary by parcel of land within a solar and wind renewable energy project. The decision which option is used is up to the operator and the landowner.

## Summary

	Received AUC approval after January 1, 2025	(Existing) Received AUC approval before January 1, 2025
When is registration required?	Before construction	By January 1, 2027
Security amount required at time of registration	30%	15%
Security amount required at year 15	60%	60%
Adequacy review by AUC for landowner-negotiated security	yes	no

## Reclamation and Conservation

Renewable Energy Operations are required to conserve, reclaim and obtain a reclamation certificate under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*. [The Conservation and Reclamation Directive for Solar and Wind Renewable Energy Operations](#), which was completed in 2018, requires operators to conduct pre-disturbance site assessments, submit conservation and reclamation plans, and conduct interim monitoring assessments. Solar and wind projects must follow the applicable Reclamation Criteria for Wellsite and Associated Facilities ([Native Grasslands](#), [Cultivated Lands](#), [Forested Lands](#), and [Peatlands](#)) for reclamation certification.

## More Information

[FAQ Renewable Energy in Alberta](#)

[AUC's Role in Reviewing Power Generation Applications.](#)

[Government of Alberta-Held Financial Security for Land Reclamation](#)

[EPEA Registration Process](#)

## Contacts

### Environment and Protected Areas

Email: [land.management@gov.ab.ca](mailto:land.management@gov.ab.ca)

### Farmer's Advocate Office

Toll free: 310-FARM (3276) (in Alberta)

Phone: 403-742-7901 (outside Alberta)

Email: [farmers.advocate@gov.ab.ca](mailto:farmers.advocate@gov.ab.ca)