

About the Wheatcrest Solar Project

60 MW

nameplate capacity

9,900

homes powered

\$120 million

local investment

200

construction jobs

We are the proud developers of the Wheatcrest Solar Project, a 60 MW solar project located on privately owned land located near the community of Enchant within the Municipal District of Taber, Alberta. This community update will provide an overview of the proposed Project and the current status of development.

Project Location & Infrastructure

The Wheatcrest Solar Project is located on approximately 320 acres of privately-owned land in the Municipal District of Taber, which is predominately used for agricultural purposes. The Project will occupy the quarter sections of SE-22-15-18-W4 and SW-22-15-18-W4 on Range Road 183, approximately 0.8 km south of Township Road 154 and 11.4 km north of Enchant.

The Project will involve the installation of solar photovoltaic panels, fixed panel racking systems, internal access roads, cabling, electrical inverters and other related electrical equipment. The Project will include the construction of a connection line to deliver power to the existing electrical transmission system.

Enclosed you will find a project location map which shows where the Project will be located within these quarter sections, and a site layout map to show how the infrastructure will be arranged on site.

Community Benefits

We are committed to strengthening the local economies where we live, work and operate by investing in and giving back to the local community for decades to come. Below are some of the local community benefits of the Wheatcrest Solar Project.



Local employment.

During construction, the Project will provide approximately 200 jobs including land surveying, road construction, set-up of electrical and communication networks, excavation, concrete and aggregates supply and installation, assembly of solar facility, construction of electrical connection and associated infrastructure, and material transportation. During operations, the Project will provide full-time, local operations and maintenance positions.



Long-term tax revenue.

Over the course of the Project's life span, it will provide ongoing contributions to the community's tax base without requiring municipal services such as water and wastewater services.



Clean, renewable energy.

The Project will generate enough power to provide clean, sustainable, zero-emission electricity for approximately 9,900 homes annually.



Local economic benefits.

Construction site services, supplies, components and contractors will be sourced locally to the extent reasonably possible, subject to meeting quality, quantity, and workmanship requirements. Some workers may also require accommodations and services while working on the project.

For more information, contact us at

bluearthrenewables.com/wheatcrest

projects@bluearth.ca

1-844-214-2578



WWW.BLUEARTHRENEWABLES.COM



Wheatcrest Solar Project

Community Update

Power to Change THE FUTURE™

Permits, Approvals & Environmental Studies

The Wheatcrest Solar Project has completed environmental studies to support the permits and approvals required to develop and build the Project. The studies have been conducted at the Project location to summarize baseline conditions in support of the environmental assessment completed for the proposed project activities.

Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP)

We have completed wetland and wildlife studies in accordance with guidance provided by AEP. These studies have been submitted to the AEP for review and approval.

- Wetland and Waterbody Assessments. Potential wetlands were identified and delineated according to the methods presented in the Alberta Wetland Identification and Delineation Directive (Completed June 2020)
- Wildlife surveys including amphibians surveys, breeding bird surveys, spring and fall bird migration surveys, raptor nest surveys; burrowing owl surveys; and sharp-tailed grouse surveys (Completed 2018-2020)
- Vegetation surveys including rare vascular plants and rare ecological community survey (Completed August 2018)

Alberta Culture and Tourism

An application for the Project area will be submitted for approval under the Historic Resources Act

Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)

An application will be submitted for approval by the AUC. In addition, the following studies have been completed:

- Glint and Glare Assessments* (Completed October 2020)
- Noise Impact Assessment* (Completed October 2020)
The Project will be compliant with Alberta's noise guidelines to ensure levels do not exceed the night-time noise limit of 40 dBA or the day-time noise limit of 50 dBA at any home (receptor). 40 dBA is a comparable noise level to a library.
- Environmental Evaluation (Completed October 2020)
The findings of the environmental studies determined that five bird species considered either endangered, of special concern, or sensitive were observed in proximity to the Project area. However, no suitable habitat for these species was identified within the Project area or in the surrounding quarter sections. Overall, the project is expected to have minimal potential adverse environmental effects due to its location and the proposed project activities.

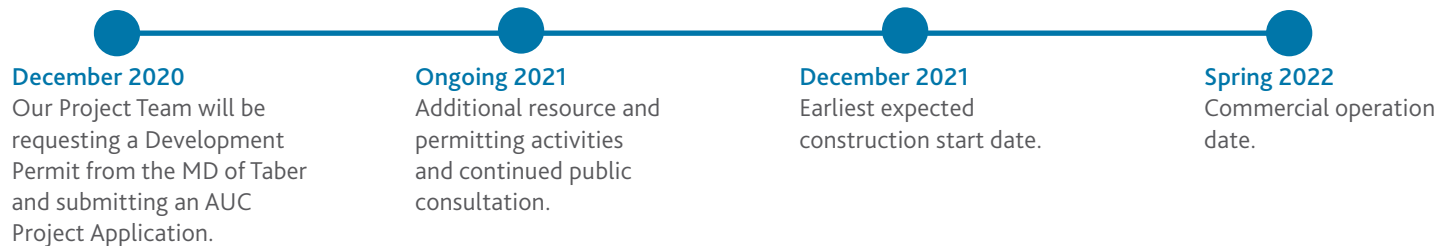
* These studies can be viewed at blueearthrenewables.com/wheatcrest

Municipal District of Taber

The Project will be seeking all necessary approvals from the MD of Taber.

What's Next?

As the next steps in project development, we will be gathering additional resource data and completing all outstanding permitting activities. In addition, our team will continue broader public consultation and advance project design and engineering activities.



We are committed to engaging stakeholders in the decision-making process for the Project. We believe that trust is the foundation for long-term successful relationships, and we know that trust is only earned over time, by working together with honest and transparent communications.

To ensure the safety of the community as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold, we will not be hosting an in-person open house for the Wheatcrest Solar Project. Your feedback on this Project remains an important component of our development process, and we invite you to engage with us in the following ways.

Book a one-on-one meeting with our project team.

If you have additional questions about the Wheatcrest Solar Project, our Project Team is available to meet with you via phone or video chat at the following times:

Thursday, December 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (MT)

Friday, December 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (MT)

Monday, December 7 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. (MT)

To book a meeting, please contact our team with your preferred time at glenn@blueearth.ca or by phone at 1-403-609-5103.

Send us your comments.

You can also send us any questions or comments about the project via email or mail and a member of our Project Team will be in contact with you.

Mail to: **BlueEarth Renewables C/O Wheatcrest Solar**
Suite 400, 214 11 Avenue SW
Calgary AB, T2R 0K1

Email: projects@blueearth.ca

To ensure your comments are included as part of the AUC Participant Information Program, all comments must be received by December 11, 2020.

Solar 101

Building a Solar Facility

The steps to construct a solar facility include:

- **Civil Works.** The ground area is prepared to ensure a flat surface to work with.
- **Perimeter Fencing.** A fence and safety signage is installed around the perimeter of the facility.
- **Foundations and Panel Racking.** Pile foundations made of steel are drilled into the ground. Then, panel racking is installed on the pile foundations. At the Wheatcrest Solar Project, fixed panel racking will be used, which is made of galvanized steel and is what holds the solar panels.
- **Module Installation.** Solar panels (also called modules) are then installed on the panel racking.
- **Electrical Components.** Inverters are installed on site and trenches are dug to carry the electrical cables from the end of each row of panels to the inverter. The inverter is where the current is converted from DC to AC, and then the electricity is carried to the project substation where transmission lines connect the solar facility to the grid.



Pile Foundations



Panel Racking

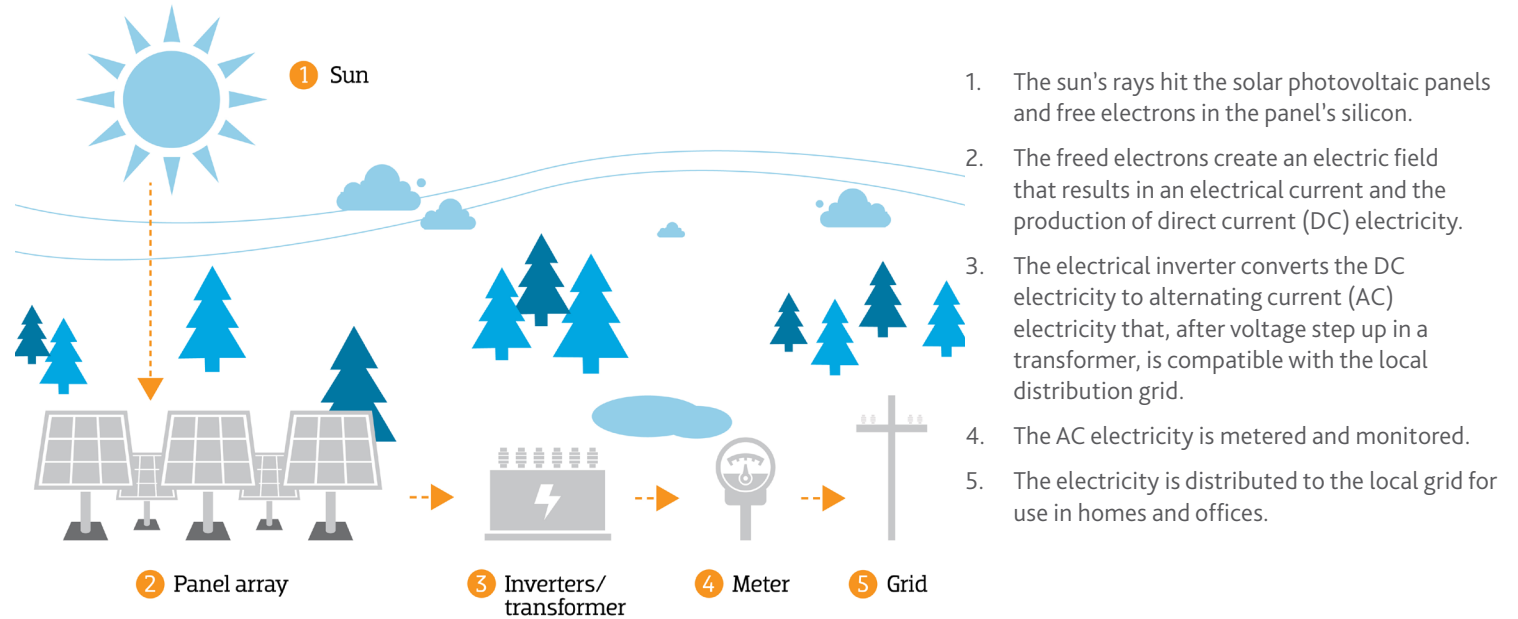


Module Installation



Electrical Components

How Does Solar Work?



Did you know?

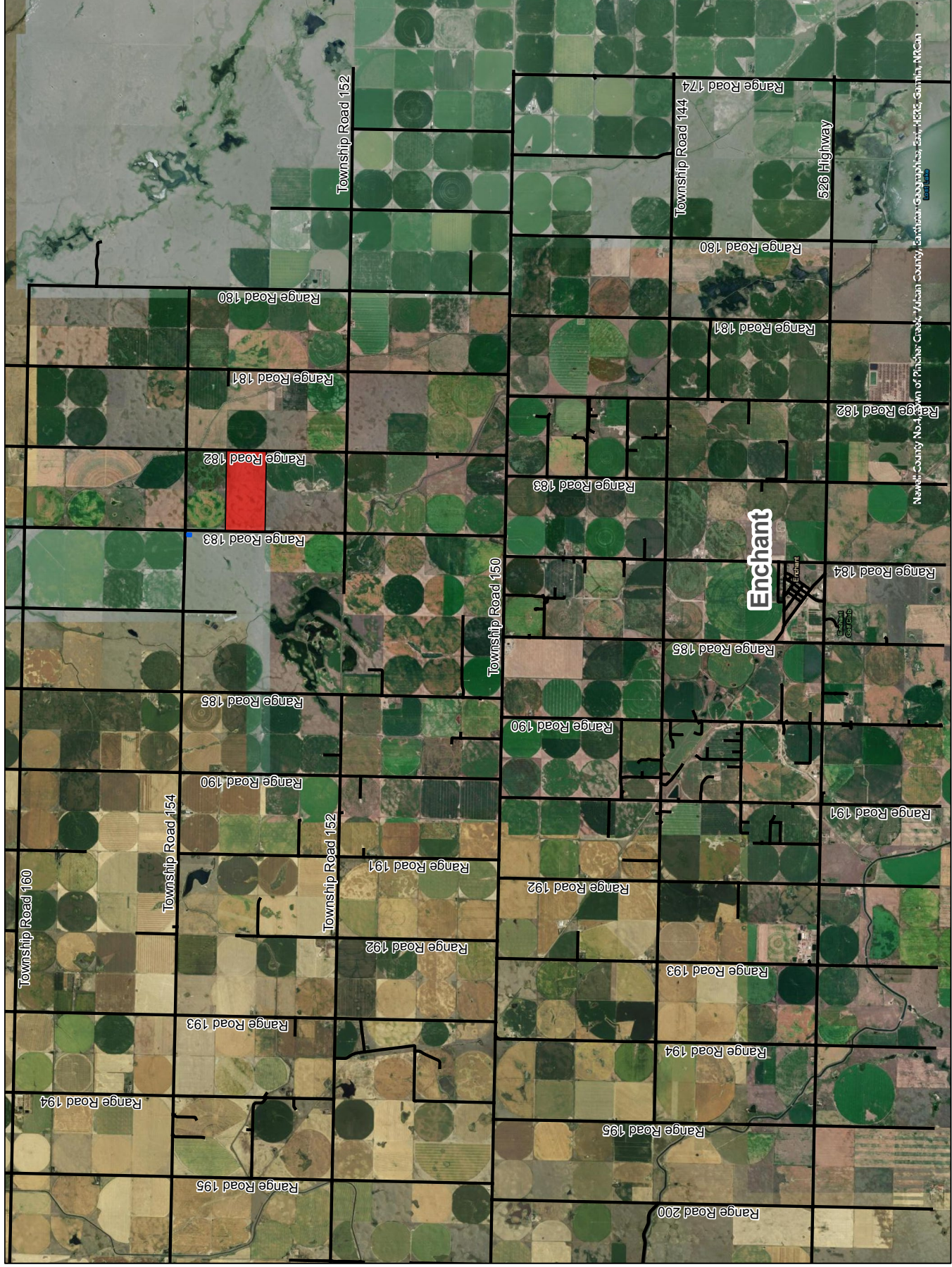
Solar panels only stand about 2 metres (10 feet) tall, making them less noticeable from a distance than other structures such as grain silos or pump jacks.

Site Layout Wheatcrest Solar Project



Project Location

Wheatcrest Solar Project



Frequently Asked Questions

Wheatcrest Solar Project

Why is this a good location for a solar project?

There are several factors in choosing sites for solar projects. The Wheatcrest Solar Projects site was chosen for the following reasons:

- A good solar resource
- Close to existing power line infrastructure with the capability of adding new generation
- Compatible land use with local zoning
- Relatively flat terrain
- A willing landowner
- Previously cultivated land, not located on native grass
- No threatened or endangered species of animals or plants
- No concerns of impact to critical habitat

Why solar?

One of the main benefits of solar is that the resource matches the daily load requirements. Each day as the sun rises, energy is produced at the same time as people are waking up and beginning to use electricity. When the sun goes down and generation decreases, people are beginning to go to bed and electricity usage is also decreasing.

Solar pricing is also now more competitive than ever before with traditional energy sources, such as coal. From 1983 to 2015, the cost of electricity produced from solar technology has come down more than 90 percent (Pembina Institute, 2016). In addition, solar facilities have no fuel costs as the resource is free and operating costs are low.

How could the proposed project impact property values?

Based on the results of three separate studies in the U.S., solar projects have no measurable impact on the value of adjacent properties, and in some cases may even have positive effects. Generally speaking, when new infrastructure projects are proposed, potential buyers may be hesitant until project construction is complete. However once completed, we don't anticipate the Project will have any long-term negative impact for adjacent property values.

How are visual concerns addressed?

Solar facilities do create a change to the visual landscape; however, the panel height is typically only about 10 feet from the ground. This makes them less noticeable from a distance than many other rural structures such as grain silos, barns, and pump jacks. Our team is committed to meeting with individual residents to help understand their concerns and discuss how these can be addressed.

Do solar facilities make noise?

A noise impact assessment has been conducted for the Project in accordance with Alberta Utilities Commission Rule 012 Noise Control to ensure noise levels do not exceed the night-time noise limit of 40 dBA or the day-time noise limit of 50 dBA at any home (receptor). 40 dBA is a comparable noise level to a library.

How are water resources being protected?

The Project will complete a stormwater management plan to ensure proper management of surface water flows during construction and operation. This plan will be designed to ensure there is no increase or decrease to the current water movement entering or leaving this property. During operation, vegetation control is carried out using mechanical means, with herbicide application limited to localized spot-spraying. The rate of herbicide application for spot spraying is a fraction of that normally used in conventional agricultural production.

How are weeds and erosion controlled?

The Project will have a erosion control plan and a weed management plan to minimize the potential for the establishment of invasive species.

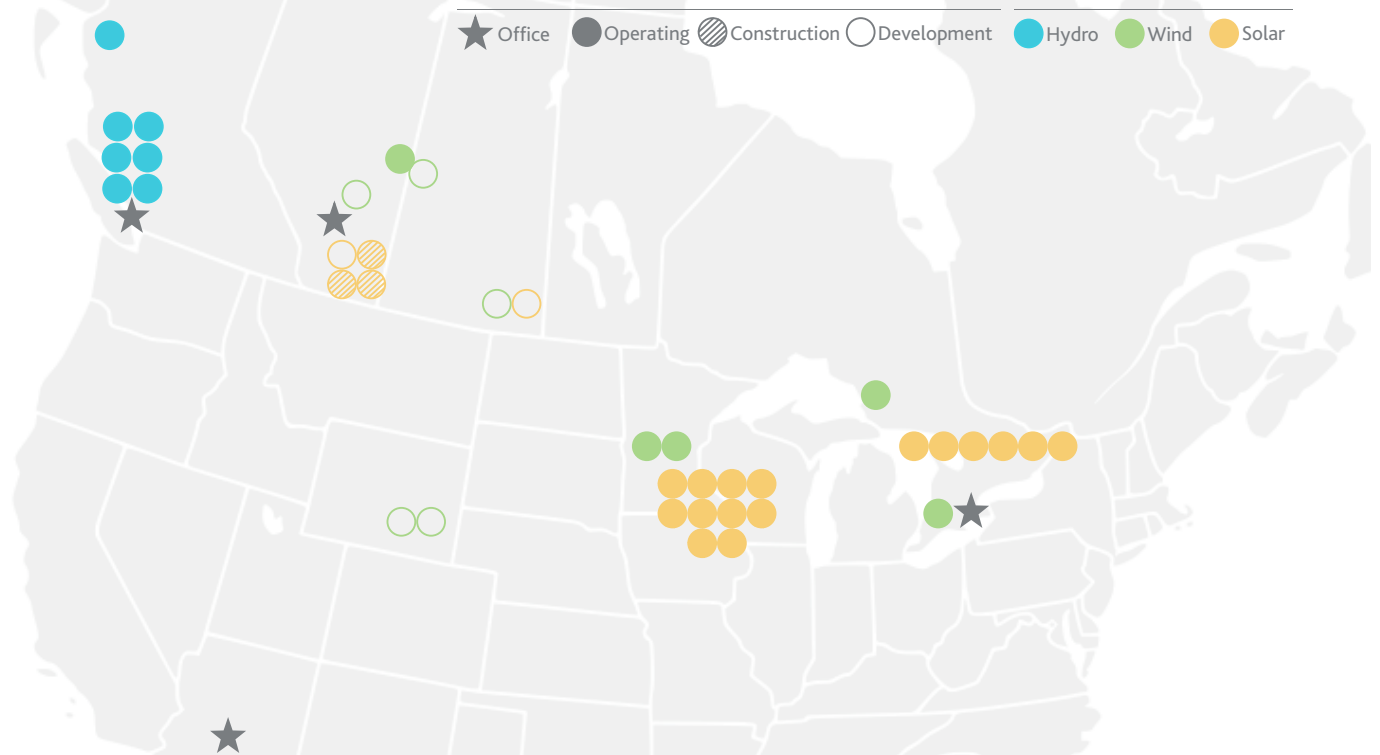
If you have additional questions, please reach out to our Project Team at 1-844-214-2578 or projects@bluearth.ca



About BluEarth Renewables

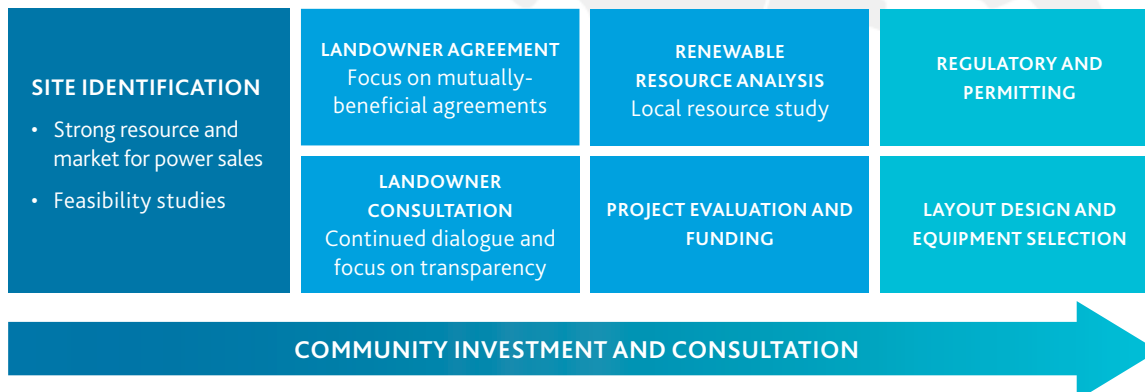
Headquartered in Calgary, BluEarth Renewables is a leading independent power producer that acquires, develops, builds, owns and operates wind, hydro and solar facilities across North America.

Our Portfolio



Our Approach to Development

Our team spans **development, permitting, regulatory, financing, engineering, construction and self-perform operations and maintenance**. With decades of experience, our team of internal experts takes projects from conception and makes them a reality.



For BluEarth **community engagement** is an ongoing activity.

In the planning and design of all our projects, we make decisions based on consultation and collaboration with all our stakeholders. From the early siting of a project, through the regulatory process and construction and into operations, we work to forge long-term relationships and help build strong communities.