

MADISON COUNTY

The Official Newsletter

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A LOOK AT SOLAR

Over the last several years, Madison County has seen a push for solar development from companies looking to locate in the area. Similar to nearby Union and Logan counties, Madison County property owners have encountered offers to buy or lease land for projects approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB), the regulating body that approves energy projects in the state. So, where does the county stand? Here's a closer look:

Alternative Energy Zones

County Commissioners David Hunter, David Dhume and Mark Forrest created the original alternative energy zone for Madison County in 2016. The measures, allowed by Ohio law, streamline the process for green-lighting alternative energy projects in a particular area. Commissioners Forrest, Wallace and Xenikis then repealed the decision in September of last year.

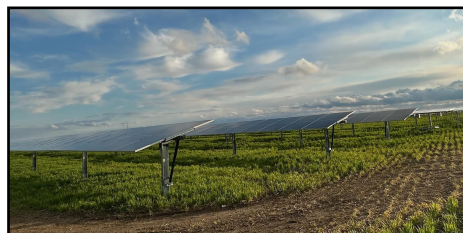
Projects in Madison County

Currently, there are three Madison County projects: Big Plain, Fox Squirrel, and Madison Fields, all of which are under construction.

The **Big Plain** project is a 196-megawatt facility located in Fairfield and Oak Run townships. The project will occupy approximately 1,200 acres within a 2,438-acre project area.

The larger **Fox Squirrel** project is a 577-megawatt facility located in Oak Run, Pleasant and Range townships. The project will cover 3,766 acres of leased land located southeast of London and northwest of Mt. Sterling.

Madison Fields is a 180-megawatt facility in Pike Township. It covers approximately 1,932 acres of project area near Rosedale.



Madison Fields

THIS MONTH

In this edition, the newsletter will focus solely on the story of solar in Madison County including projects, history and where the county currently stands.

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Newsletter Info

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Senate Bill 52

These three projects were in process prior to the passage of Ohio Senate Bill 52 and therefore “grandfathered in” for approval.

The bill, which went into effect in late 2021, gave new powers to county commissioners regarding certain renewable energy developments and set aside the “public utility exemption” in those situations. The new law states that counties can designate certain restricted areas where solar (and wind) development is prohibited. It can also prohibit an individual proposed solar and wind facility or limit its size.

Oak Run, Springwater and slowing down

In 2022, the OPSB approved the Springwater project, a proposed 155-megawatt project that spans more than 1,000 acres in Fairfield Township in Madison County and Pleasant Township in Franklin County.

In addition to those four projects being approved by the OPSB, the county is also looking at a fifth in the area and one of the largest projects in the state: Oak Run. The project is a more than 6,000-acre proposal southeast of the intersection of Routes 29 and 38.

While the project is currently still pending at the OPSB, the commissioners have expressed their feelings at the local level, voting to oppose the Oak Run solar project 2-1 earlier this year.

“Madison County currently has four approved projects. More than any other county in Ohio,” said County Administrator Rob Slane. “Madison County is doing its part, but we have reached a point of saturation. These three projects have been extremely difficult to monitor and have spread the staff of the Madison County Engineer, county commissioners, and the Madison County Sheriff’s Office extremely thin.”

The commissioners went on to say that “all three townships and a group of concerned residents in the Oak Run project area opposed the project, while only a small number of proponents showed support for the project to move forward. Furthermore, with the three existing solar projects currently under construction and Springwater recently approved by the OPSB, the commissioners felt the time was right to pause solar development in the county to better monitor these projects while in the construction phase and to ascertain how these projects impact the community once operational.”

Commissioners added the decision would be part of a 2-3-year pause on solar development in the community and officials would push against any further attempts to bring a project to the county.

Questions on Solar

Madison County will continue to monitor projects under construction and distribute revenue accordingly. The Board of Commissioners has deemed the pause in solar development a necessity for the welfare of Madison County.

For questions or concerns regarding existing projects or future projects please contact Rob Slane, Madison County Administrator at :

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Annual Revenue Per Project

	Big Plain Annual Total (196 MW)	Fox Squirrel Annual Total (577 MW)	Madison Fields Annual Total (180 MW)	Annual Total Across All Projects (953 WW)
County (additional service fee)	\$392,000.00	\$1,154,000.00	\$360,000.00	\$1,906,000.00
County	\$211,108.00	\$609,650.00	\$248,235.00	\$1,068,993.00
Veteran Services	\$9,634.83	\$28,363.76	\$10,867.69	\$48,866.28
Health Services	\$22,160.11	\$65,236.65	\$24,995.68	\$112,392.44
Mental Health	\$9,634.83	\$28,363.76	\$10,867.69	\$48,866.28
Madison County Senior Center	\$15,415.73	\$45,382.02	\$17,388.30	\$78,186.05
Madison County Board of DD	\$77,078.65	\$226,910.11	\$86,941.52	\$390,930.28
Fairbanks SD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$875,063.00	\$875,063.00
Madison Plains SD	\$1,003,132.00	\$2,896,894.00	\$0.00	\$3,900,026.00
Tolles Tech	\$33,713.00	\$97,359.00	\$39,642.00	\$170,714.00
Fairfield Twp	\$48,713.00	\$0.00	\$97,058.00	\$145,771.00
Pleasant Twp	\$0.00	\$52,552.00	\$0.00	\$52,552.00
Range Twp	\$0.00	\$52,552.00	\$0.00	\$52,552.00
Oak Run Twp	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mad EMD	\$29,160.00	\$168,242.00	\$0.00	\$197,402.00
Central Jt Fire	\$46,171.00	\$266,671.00	\$0.00	\$312,842.00
Total	\$1,897,921.15	\$5,692,176.30	\$1,771,058.88	\$9,361,156.33

Information provided by the Board of Madison County Commissioners