

# Iyuhána Solar Project



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What type of project will be constructed and when?

The Iyuhána Solar Project (the Project) is a transmission connected ground mount solar photovoltaic facility which will have a generation capacity of 100 MW AC. The Project will utilize Single Axis Tracker panels with Bi-Facial solar PV modules that are approximately 3 m in height.

Iyuhána Solar is targeting Q3 2025 for construction commencement, with a target commercial operation date of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. The Project will be designed and constructed to have an operational lifetime of 25 years.

### Who will own the Project?

The Project is owned by Iyuhána Solar Limited Partnership (Iyuhána Solar) which is 90% owned by GSI Management Inc. (GSI) and 10% owned by Ocean Man First Nation (OMFN).

GSI has over 14 years of experience and more than 1.6 GW of solar and battery storage being developed or operational, globally. With extensive knowledge and expertise through all phases of the project lifecycle, from origination through to commercial operation, GSI has put significant emphasis on embedding core values into the internal workings of the company and its employees. These values include community connection, creative agrivoltaics efforts, respect for the land, and diverse educational and employment opportunities being at the forefront of our corporate culture.

OMFN is a true advocate of both the Iyuhána Solar Project and many other renewable energy initiatives within the province of Saskatchewan. At the beginning of their solar journey, OMFN developed and now operates two fixed tilt groundmount solar projects that are connected to the SaskPower grid and were permitted to do so under the Power Generation Partner Program in 2020 and 2021. The projects continue to be owned, operated, and maintained by members of the OMFN.

In partnership, GSI and OMFN proudly share the ongoing development of the 100 MW AC Iyuhána Solar Project located in the Rural Municipality of Estevan which executed a Power Purchase Agreement with SaskPower in late 2023.

### Where will the Iyuhána Solar Project be located?

The Project will be located in the Rural Municipality of Estevan, approximately 8 kilometers southwest of the City of Estevan. It is located in the northwest corner of the intersection of Range Road 2091 and

Township Road 14. The 550-acre Project footprint will utilize four quarter sections of SaskPower owned lands.

An interactive map and additional Project location related details can be found on the Project website.

### What equipment will the Iyuhána Solar Project require?

The Project will require approximately 200,000 Bi-Facial solar PV modules, 27 inverters, and 1 High Voltage transformer, all enclosed in 12 kilometers of perimeter fencing.

### How was the Iyuhána Solar Project site location selected?

The location of the Project was decided by SaskPower. SaskPower secured the land rights to the property before awarding the Project to Iyuhána Solar LP/GP under a competitive procurement in 2023.

SaskPower put great consideration into the selection of the Project location. Four main factors were the primary drivers for the decided location:

1. Availability of good and predictable solar irradiance (i.e. sunny days)
2. Available and compatible land
3. The absence of sensitive natural heritage and cultural heritage areas
4. Distance to heavily populated areas

The Iyuhána Solar Project location is proposed on four quarter sections, located approximately 8 km southwest of the City of Estevan as it satisfies these four critical drivers while also making use of land now owned by SaskPower.

### How is the Project addressing the concern that agricultural land is being taken out of production.

Iyuhána Solar aims to honor the agricultural roots and history of the province of Saskatchewan and the Estevan community.

At the end of Project life (25 years), the entirety of the Project facility will be decommissioned by trained professionals. All equipment and materials will be removed from the site for re-use, recycling, or disposal and the site will be restored to a state similar, or better, to that of pre-construction. After decommissioning, traditional agricultural land-use will continue at the property. The decommissioning process will adhere to best industry practices and follow regulatory guidelines in effect by the Province of Saskatchewan.

Additionally, Iyuhána Solar has committed to working with the University of Regina on an environmental research project. This 5-year research project will be a Before-After-Control-Impact study to assess short-term and long-term impacts and benefits of new construction on the lands and use by wildlife and vegetation compared to similar unimpacted areas. The study will assess how a variety of prairieland species respond to construction and operation of the Project with special focus on:

- Changes to structure and composition of the vegetation community
- Changes to use of the site by breeding and migratory birds
- Changes to use of the site by bats

Moreover, Iyuhána Solar will be exploring an Agrivoltaics for Indigenous Student Program with OMFN. This program will include annual funding for a long-term program to explore the feasibility of planting plants, crops, pollinators, native prairie grasses, and/or, traditional medical plants in the rows between solar panels of two operating solar projects at Ocean Man First Nation. If the Program shows success, Iyuhána Solar will look to expand the initiative at the Project.

In addition, the Project Team is exploring the introduction of grazing sheep within the perimeter fence at the Project to further preserve the agricultural land-use of the property. The Project site has adequate access to water which makes it ideal for sheep grazing. Alberta has seen successful agrivoltaics programs involving solar panels and sheep grazing and we hope to be the first to put to work this exciting compatible pair in Saskatchewan. If you know of anyone who might be interested in exploring this with our Project Team, please contact us via email at [iyuhana.solar@greenwoodinfra.com](mailto:iyuhana.solar@greenwoodinfra.com).

### Will the Iyuhána Solar Project produce any new jobs?

Project construction is targeted to commence in Q3 2025. The Project will be commercially operational in December 2026.

**Direct Job Creation:** There will be up to 150 jobs created throughout the development and construction phases of the Project from 2024 to late 2026. During operations, there will be three to five full time jobs required for Operation and Maintenance of the Project throughout its lifetime.

**Indirect Job Creation:** Throughout the development and construction of the Project, a surge of employees will be present within the Estevan area, requiring accommodation and lodging, and relying on local goods and services for the majority of their needs. This will help spur additional revenue for the local community.

The Project Team is committed to hosting a minimum of two job fairs in the RM of Estevan prior to construction start. Information related to the job fair locations and dates will be made available on the Iyuhána Project website.

Additionally, Iyuhána Solar is committed to providing quarterly newsletter updates during development and construction regarding project progress, key milestones, employment opportunities, opportunities for sharing concerns and information regarding upcoming public open house, job fairs, community sessions and workshops. These newsletters will be posted on the Iyuhána Solar Project website and can be mailed out to stakeholders upon request.

### How will the Iyuhána Solar Project panels and land be maintained?

Iyuhána Solar will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Project. The Iyuhána Engineering Team will be monitoring the performance of the Project throughout its operational lifetime and will be alerted via automated monitoring systems if any problems occur with the equipment's performance levels. A local Operations and Maintenance (O&M) team located in the Project area will be on-site during the day and conduct visits to the Project site as necessary for scheduled and unscheduled maintenance.

Ongoing snow removal at the solar facility is the responsibility of Iyuhána Solar. There may be times when modules are left with snow cover as the forecasted weather conditions suggest that is most economical to leave them as they are. When covered in snow, the solar Project does not generate electricity and consequently, does not generate any revenue.

Iyuhána Solar will also be responsible for vegetation management on site. The Project will have a Vegetation Management Plan for Construction and Operation. The Vegetation Management Plan will ensure:

- Best practices related to soils and vegetation on the site that will be implemented.
- Adequate vegetation covering accomplished by seeding the site upon construction completion to restrict weed growth.
- Engaging a maintenance crew to remove unwanted vegetation regularly.
- Routine visual inspections of the Project site will occur, to ensure the solar facility infrastructure and access roads remain clear of debris, weed, and vegetation.
- Mowing the Project area as necessary to keep from becoming over vegetated.

### What security measures will be in place on site?

A chain-link fence will be installed around the entire perimeter of the Project area. Additionally, security cameras will be installed in key locations of the Project site and will be utilized to monitor and surveillance the Project area and those accessing through the main access roads.

All main equipment and the substation will be further individually locked and secured, and signage will be placed in select areas warning of restricted area.

The Project site will be regularly visited by the local O&M Team and will be accessed by authorized personnel only.

### What happens if a solar PV panel is damaged?

Solar panels are engineered and designed to be extremely durable and are manufactured with glass that is designed to be flexible and impact resistant. In the rare case that any damage occurs to the solar PV modules, there would be an immediate reduction in power production and the damage would be identified by our monitoring software. Consequently, the Iyuhána internal engineering team will be alerted via automated monitoring systems. A local O&M team in the Rural Municipality of Estevan will be available to remove and replace the damaged panel. The damaged panel would be transported and disposed of in the appropriate facilities. An indoor storage location for spare panels will be located in the City of Estevan for safe keeping.

### Will there be impacts on local roads during construction and operation of the facility and who will pay if roads need to be upgraded or traffic needs to be rerouted?

Iyuhána Solar will bear the responsibility of costs associated with any necessary road upgrades or road damages that occur throughout the construction and operational lifetime of the Project. An increase in traffic flow levels can be expected within the direct vicinity of the Project during the construction phase which is expected to begin in Q3 2025 and run for 12-18 months. Road use during construction will include daily use of cars and trucks for transportation of construction workers, weekly deliveries by transport trucks delivering project components, and occasional delivery of major construction equipment including pile drivers, excavators, graders and cranes. Construction will occur only within the allowable construction hours permitted by the province of Saskatchewan.

Once operational, there will be minimal changes to traffic due to the Project operations and maintenance. Daily access to the site will be via one or two regular pick-up trucks by the local O&M team.

Iyuhána Solar commits to working collaboratively with the RM of Estevan Council on requirements related to road allowances and road upgrades and road repairs and maintenance.

### Will existing shelter beds remain intact?

The Project site layout aims to retain shelter beds, where feasible, and will include the planting of trees in key areas around the site for visual screening and wind protection based on feedback from neighboring landowners.

### How will the Project impact wildlife?

Iyuhána Solar has engaged an experienced third-party environmental consultant to conduct all necessary field studies to confirm existing wildlife, wildlife habitat, vegetation, wetlands and water courses within the Project area.

To address and mitigate potential environmental interactions, the Project is currently in the process of completing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to follow the requirements of the Saskatchewan Environmental Assessment Act. An initial baseline environmental assessment was completed for the Project area in 2022 by a third-party environmental consultant. This baseline assessment included a preliminary desktop assessment to identify potential wildlife habitat and species of concern using the Hunting, Angling and Biodiversity Information of Saskatchewan (HABISask), followed by field assessments using the guidelines for Saskatchewan Plant and Wildlife Pre-Construction Surveys for Renewable Energy Projects and Saskatchewan Species Detection Survey Protocols.

To date, on-site field surveys have been completed for:

- Amphibians
- Burrowing Owls
- Short-eared Owls
- Common Nighthawk
- Grassland Breeding Birds
- Sharp-tailed Grouse
- Piping Plover and Yellow Rail
- Rare vascular plants
- Raptors
- Bird Migration
- Landcover and Wetlands

Following completion of these surveys, preliminary Project siting incorporated the results of any identified features of interest and applied equipment setback distances in the site layout.

In addition, a preliminary Environmental Management Plan has been developed for the Project site that provides industry standard best management practices and mitigation measures to identify and address potential environmental impacts from the Project through construction, operation, and decommissioning. This Plan will be updated based on feedback from the Ministry of Environment and from local stakeholders.

The Iyuhána Project Team has consulted with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (MOE) to identify additional environmental assessment requirements to support the MOE's technical review of the Project. Following this engagement, Iyuhána Solar and selected environmental consultants are working to prepare a Terms of Reference document that will be shared with the MOE for review and

consideration, outlining the scope of the EIS assessment. Additionally, a second set of field surveys of the Project site will be completed in Spring/Summer 2024 to support and verify if any new active wildlife or vegetation features are present in the Project footprint. These results will be used to influence the final Project Site Plan. The results will also be incorporated into the EIS to determine all potential environmental interactions of the Project.

Iyuhána Solar is committed to continuing to work with the MOE to ensure the Project development, design, and implementation will be in the best interest of wildlife and wildlife habitat.

### What will happen once the Iyuhána Solar Project has reached the end of its lifespan?

At the end of the Project's life, which will be 25 years, the Project will be decommissioned. Decommissioning involves dismantling and removing all equipment and disposing of them in an environmentally and ethically conscious manner. Any required permits and necessary approvals at the time of decommissioning will be obtained from the appropriate regulatory and government bodies. Notification to the landowners, local municipality, and stakeholders will also be given in advance of the commencement of the decommissioning process.

The solar PV modules, once disconnected and dismantled, will be carefully handled, packed, and collected by trained professionals from the Project site, then transported to the appropriate facilities where the glass, metal, and semi-conductor materials will be separated and either recycled or disposed of appropriately and safely.

Once the metal (aluminum) and glass components of the solar PV modules are separated, 100% of the metal components and approximately 95% of the glass can be reused for future industrial purposes.

The entirety of the Project facility will be decommissioned by trained professionals in the field and will adhere to the practices and procedures followed by the Province of Saskatchewan.

A Decommissioning Report which details the various steps of the decommissioning process will be made available on the Iyuhána Solar Project website once finalized.

### How can I learn more?

Project Related Information: Please visit our website for all Iyuhána Project information:  
<https://greenwoodinfra.com/development-projects/saskatchewan/>

Stakeholder Participation: Please reach out to us via email at [iyuhana.solar@greenwoodinfra.com](mailto:iyuhana.solar@greenwoodinfra.com) if you have any questions or would like to hear more about the Project. A member of the Project Team would be happy to arrange a phone call, virtual meeting, or in person visit.

Ongoing Project Updates: If you would like to be included on our distribution list to receive Project updates and quarterly newsletters by email or paper mail (<https://forms.office.com/r/2PCkz3fwqN>)

SaskPower: To learn more about the [SaskPower](#) projects including the interconnection of the Iyuhána Solar Facility, visit [Planning and Construction Projects \(saskpower.com\)](#). If you have inquiries, [Contact Us \(saskpower.com\)](#).