



# Ogle County

## Soil and Water Conservation District

Ogle County Resource Center, 213 West Pines Road, Oregon, Illinois 61061-9060  
815-732-6127 ext. 3

October 10, 2018

Ogle County Solar Planning Committee,

The Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to contribute the following as a recommendation for ground cover seeding in association to new and proposed solar farms in Ogle County.

We would recommend a blend of cool season grasses and legumes to control erosion and provide pollinator habitat. Cool season grasses and legumes are quicker to establish and easier to maintain in the secondary environment of a solar panels. While warm season grasses and forbs may be more desirable in many situations, they require burning to successfully establish and maintain an acceptable stand. Warm season plantings generally take 3 years to become established. These considerations make warm season plantings non-conductive to the environment of solar farms.

We would recommend in the solar panel areas, a blend of cool season grass species such as; Brome Grass, Timothy and/or Orchard Grass and legumes species such as; Red Clover, Alsike or Ladino Clover, Crimson Clover and/or Alfalfa.

In areas more than 50 feet from the solar panels and associated equipment, a warm season pollinator mix would be very desirable and more feasible

The Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District can develop several recommended seed blend options that are best suited for differing sites based on various soil types and site conditions, while meeting erosion control and pollinator habitat.

Hope this is helpful. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Respectfully,

Sterling Taylor  
Executive Director  
Ogle Co. Soil and Water  
Conservation District  
815-732-6127x3