

SHERCO SOLAR PROJECT

LEADING THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION
WITH MINNESOTA'S LARGEST SOLAR PROJECT



710 MEGAWATTS

of carbon-free, renewable energy — the largest solar project in Minnesota



150,000

homes Powered each year, on average



**335,000
TO 400,000**

tons of CO₂ avoided each year, on average



Located next to the Sherco Coal Plant in

BECKER, MN



That's Equal to taking approximately

80,000

gasoline cars off the road every year



\$350 MILLION

in local benefits over the life of the project

- Landowner payments
- State and local property taxes
- Production taxes

Xcel Energy is developing the Upper Midwest's largest solar project near the existing Sherco coal plant site in Becker, Minnesota. Sherco Solar will help meet Xcel Energy customers' energy needs as the company transitions away from coal.

The first phase of the Sherco Solar project began delivering carbon-free electricity in late 2024. Once the two remaining phases come online in 2025 and 2026, Sherco Solar will be one of the largest solar facilities in the country, powering 150,000 homes across the Upper Midwest with energy fueled by the sun to keep bills low. The facility's 710 megawatts will replace the capacity of the Sherco plant's first coal unit that retired in late 2023. Xcel Energy will own and operate all three projects.

Solar energy does not have any fuel costs and contributes to a diversified energy mix, which helps protect customers against rising fuel prices. Building the solar projects adjacent to the retiring Sherco coal plant will allow the company to reuse the facility's existing grid connections, further cutting costs for customers.

The Sherco site plays an important role in the company's vision to deliver 100% clean energy in Minnesota by 2040, meeting the state's new benchmark. Xcel Energy's proposed Minnesota Energy Connection transmission line will link at least 2,000 megawatts of new renewable energy to the grid at Sherco. The company is also working on a long-duration battery storage pilot project at the Sherco plant.

Xcel Energy is on track to reduce carbon emissions by at least 80% from customers' electricity in the Upper Midwest by 2030. The company plans to retire all of its coal units by the end of 2030.

Commitment to Local Economy

The projects will provide economic benefits in Becker and the surrounding area. Sherco Solar is creating 400 union construction jobs, plus 18 ongoing operations and maintenance jobs. Sherco Solar will use Xcel Energy's Power Up workforce and development program, designed to integrate women and people of color who are underrepresented in the utility industry and building trades.

Xcel Energy is committed to a smooth transition for its employees at the Sherco plant, who have played a vital role in powering the region for decades. The company has transitioned other Minnesota coal plants without layoffs and expects to accomplish this again at the Sherco facility.

Sherco Solar is expected to provide \$350 million in local benefits, including landowner payments, state and local property taxes, and production taxes over its 35-year life. The company is also working with the state and local communities to bring new jobs and investments to areas affected by the coal plant retirements.