



PX3 - Pollinators Prospering People, Inc.

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Power Plant Research Program

% Bob Sadzinski

CC: David Tancabel

PX3-Pollinators Prospering People is pleased to support the Solar Facilities Pollinator workgroup. This type of multi-functional working land is the type of community challenge that we seek to promote. Our goals overlap with the message it sends--beautify the solar facilities, provide pollinating insect habitat, and increase yields for nearby pollinator-dependant food crops. PX3 is a nonprofit that represents both natural resource conservation and best landscape practices. We are proud to be a group with field expertise on meadow maintenance and habitat management; as well as community outreach and education. We hope our initial impressions are valuable, and that we continue contributing as the project evolves.

Pollinator Habitat Development (Landscape Community)

Those involved with and impacted by solar facilities should know that initial pollinator meadow certification may take several years while the wildflower community becomes established. We echo the statements of the professionals with field experience: site preparation, installation and maintenance of meadow habitat in the mid-Atlantic area is an ongoing challenge. Due to widespread nuisance and noxious plants and animals, a maximum of three year intervals between recertifications is advised.

Community Involvement (Conservation Community)

We greatly value community involvement. Our organization was founded on the belief that new pollinator habitat must be developed with community support so that it remains relevant, useful, and provides a sustainable habitat for beneficial insect species. These installations can have a much higher rate of success if community groups are invited to be active participants. In the DC metro area, we have a wealth of volunteer groups whose interests overlap with the goals of the pollinator-friendly designation: Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, Watershed Stewards, Permaculturists, and a wide variety of community science groups. These organizations can compliment pollinator research by universities and government scientists. We highly recommend ongoing communication between the facility managers and local groups to create a positive model that can be sustained and shared.

In closing, it is the mission of PX3 to develop sustainable habitat corridor connections and maximize the potential of a given piece of land. This type of progressive collaboration has the potential to be an exciting new experience for many of those involved. Because of that, we feel that clearly established lines of communication between the landowner, solar panel installers, the solar facility managers, and the public will be critical to maximizing benefits from this concept.

Sustainably,

PX3 Board of Directors