



Bee Better Electric

National third party verified program for pollinator friendly energy projects.

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Bee Better Certified - Electric

Purpose:

Develop the first nationally recognized, third-party verified, voluntary pollinator certification program for electric power companies.

Asset Types:

Solar, Transmission, Power Plants, Substations.

Schedule:

- Project launched 2021
- Public Comment Period: October 2022
- Revised Criteria: April 2024
- Pilot Testing: 2024-2025

EPRI's Role:

- Develop a scientifically rigorous program that balances industry and stakeholder input.
- Establish Scientific Foundation
- Seek stakeholder input
- Support pilot testing



Draft for Input

Bee Better Certified Electric V1.0: Verification Criteria contains the criteria that a qualified and trained third-party verifier will use to assess sites seeking certification.

Bee Better Certified Electric V1.0: Scientific Background to the Criteria is a companion document that provides the rationale and scientific foundation for the criteria.

EPRI Discussion Draft. Do Not Post.

Bee Better Certified Electric: Verification Criteria V1.0
Draft November 2023

Overview

Bee Better Certified Electric provides nationally consistent, third-party verifiable, and scientifically informed criteria that meets the needs and interests of power companies, scientists, and the public seeking a voluntary program to support pollinators. Developed over multiple years and balancing input from scientists and industry, these criteria can guide land managers in efforts to protect pollinators and, if appropriate, receive formal certification. Various factors can impact a site's appropriateness for certification. This program is a voluntary option for companies who have considered its value.

Context

This document, *Bee Better Certified Electric V1.0: Verification Criteria*, contains the criteria that a qualified and trained third-party verifier will use to assess sites seeking certification.

Bee Better Certified Electric V1.0: Scientific Background to the Criteria is a companion document that provides the rationale and scientific foundation for the criteria. These two documents should be considered together. All terms in **BOLD** in the criteria are defined in the *Scientific Background to the Criteria*. These two documents should be considered together to enable the greatest understanding.

The following asset types can be certified: substation, solar plant, power plant, hydroelectric plant, and transmission rights-of-way.

EPRI DISCUSSION DRAFT. DO NOT POST.

**Bee Better Certified Electric V1.0:
Scientific Background to the Criteria**

Contents

I. Introduction

II. Criteria

1. Thresholds and Minimums
2. Vegetation Management Plan (VMP)
3. Vegetation Composition, Abundance, and Nativity
4. Mowing and Grazing
5. Insecticides and Fungicides
6. Herbicides

Acknowledgments

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Reviewers: Eric Lee-Mäder (Xerces) and Jessica Fox (EPRI).

TO BE RE-FORMATED PRIOR TO PUBLICATION

We are requesting input on Draft Documents

Power-in-Pollinators Initiative 2023

Power companies collaborating to understand pollinators



EPRI does not represent their funders or collaborators. EPRI research results are independent.

Project Working Group (2021, 2022, 2023)

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Industry & Stakeholder Input

Public Comment Period (Oct '22-Jan '23).

- 45 organizations commented
- Social Media: Reached 12,319 accounts (646 reactions)

Collaborative Editing (2023 – current):

- Utility Arborist Association (UAA) colleagues
- Energy and Wildlife Action Coalition (EWAC)
- Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA)
- Many individual organizational interviews

Criteria Summary

Total of 30 specific criteria that are measurable and verifiable.

1. Thresholds and Minimums (7 criteria)
2. Vegetation Management Plan (6 criteria)
3. Vegetation Composition, Abundance, Nativity (8 criteria)
4. Mowing and Grazing (2 criteria)
5. Insecticides and Fungicides (4 criteria)
6. Herbicides (3 criteria)

Examples:

- 30% of the Certified Site must be “Pollinator Habitat”.
- “Pollinator Habitat” must include 50% locally native, as defined by BONAP.
- 50ft pesticide drift area, when adjacent to conventional ag, as defined by USDA.

Vegetation Requirements for Pollinator Habitat

