valmont SOLAR



Multi-Site Project

Total Project Size: 55 MWp
Product: 5,334 Convert-1P Trackers
Conditions: Rock and tough soil, heavy snow part of the year
Location: Eight sites – Five in Rochester, NY; three in Albany, NY
Project began December 2021
Began commissioning in May 2022

Multiple Sites + Rocky Terrain Require Strength x Flexibility

Not every solar installation takes place in just one location with steady climatic conditions and easily manageable geology. Unpredictable weather, tough terrain and installations spread over many miles make detailed planning and communication with partners a must.

"We worked with Valmont Solar for a project in the northeastern United States, and we wouldn't hesitate to recommend them for projects that involve multi-site rollouts or tough terrain requiring ground screws. They were easy to work with and had a knowledgeable team that we trust and would recommend."

– Arash Y., P.Eng.
Director of Engineering Services, PRI Engineering

Rochester and Albany, New York, are more than 220 miles apart and average 51.6 and 77.3 inches of snow per year, respectively. Combine that climate with the soil conditions in northern New York state — rock and tough soil — and Valmont Solar™ had several distinct challenges to overcome.

The first was the logistical complexities of a solar project covering multiple sites. Whereas many installations need only weekly management, this project required daily management to succeed.

The materials needed for the project were stored in 170 containers being transported to eight sites from different ports and three separate warehouses. Because fluctuating temperatures and heavy snow followed by melting meant that some sites were not always accessible, Valmont logistics experts worked to be certain the correct parts reached the correct sites on the correct day, when they could be reached and work could be done.

These challenges necessitated communication with the customer to gauge site conditions and minimum installation time. In addition, all the materials had to be pulled from containers and loaded on flatbed trucks to reach their ultimate destinations.

But weather and distance were not the only obstacles Valmont Solar had to overcome. The other was technological. Of the eight sites, five employ ground screws and three have embedded posts. Valmont Solar worked hand in hand with the engineering group on the design and in the field, deploying a brand-new ground screw design that had never been attempted before. In addition to the innovative ground screws, the tracker design Valmont Solar utilized features a specialized snow-stow position for heavy snow conditions and high winds.

Our partners trust our combination of planning, service and logistics, knowing they can only be achieved by a company with the strength and flexibility of Valmont Solar.