Invenergy

Foundry Works Solar Project: Ground Cover Strategy

Overview

This document provides a summary of the strategy for establishment and management of the proposed vegetation for Foundry Works Solar Project. Prairie grass vegetation will be planted under the solar arrays and between the panels. Choosing to use such herbaceous vegetation provides key benefits for reestablishing and enhancing the natural ecosystem. After establishment, the groundcover will improve soil and water quality due to the deep and complex root systems that stabilize soils, reduce soil erosion and increase soil organic matter over the project's life.

The vegetation establishment process occurs in several phases. Before construction activities start, a temporary vegetative cover is planted to prevent erosion and create optimal working conditions while the project is being built. Typically, oats, winter wheat or other annual species are selected to create temporary ground cover during construction. The seed mix for the final prairie grass cover is determined prior to project construction by an experienced vegetation establishment consultant. To determine the soil makeup, the consultant takes soil samples and surveys the landowners and their tenant farmers regarding soil conditions and fertilizer/pesticide/herbicide use to select the appropriate plant species. The consultant then develops a seeding plan, determines best seed installation practices and oversees the contractor performing the planting of the final vegetative cover.

Benefits

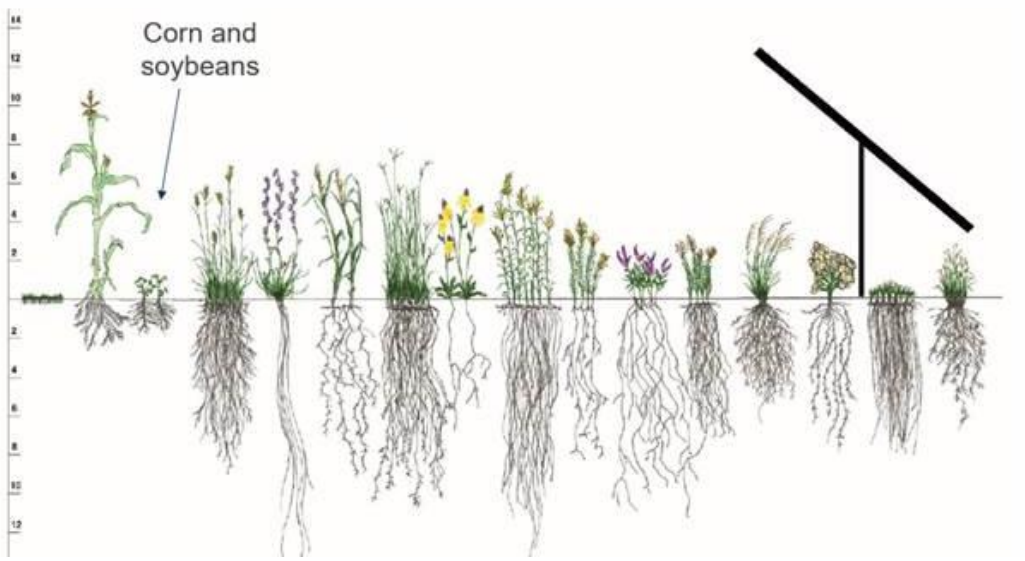

Image A: Root structures for prairie grasses and perennials can grow up to 7x as deep as corn and soybeans.

The primary benefits that prairie ground cover brings to farm ground are erosion control, improved soil fertility and increased water storage that reduces stormwater runoff from the area. Image A below helps illustrate the density and depth of the root systems that prairie grasses develop, helping to protect the soil from erosion. The plants also increase organic carbon content in the soil and help microorganisms thrive. The entire ground cover system serves as habitat for insects, birds, and small wildlife. As this ground cover is present year-round and will be in place for the life of the project (30-35 years), the soil conditions will be preserved, and the land will be ready to be farmed once the Project is decommissioned.

In terms of ongoing vegetation management, the site will be mowed once or twice a year to control vegetation height and undesirable weedy/woody species. Some herbicides like

Roundup could be used to spot treat areas where weeds develop to ensure that prairie grasses are properly established.

Some examples of fully established prairie groundcovers at large-scale solar projects are provided below.