

# Illinois Department of Agriculture's Solar Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA)

## Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement Standards

- Illinois law (55 ILCS 5/5-12020) requires commercial solar energy facilities to enter into an Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA)
- AIMA was developed in cooperation with agricultural organizations, landowners, farmers, drainage contractors, and government officials.
- AIMA sets standards for construction and deconstruction of solar projects with the intent to preserve agricultural land. These standards include:
  - Topsoil removal and replacement requirements.
  - Drain tile repair and preservation.
  - Maintenance of subsurface drainage within and adjacent to the project area.
  - Repair of compaction and rutting.
  - Prevention of soil erosion.
  - Weed/vegetation control.
  - Deconstruction plan and financial assurance.
- Deconstruction requirements detail the equipment to be removed and the timeframe for deconstruction activities.
- Deconstruction plans and financial assurance must be updated throughout the life of the project according to the schedule set forth in the AIMA.
- Deconstruction may be conducted by the local jurisdiction in the event of facility abandonment. Abandonment is defined as 12 months past the useful life of the project or 6 months of non-payment to underlying landowners.
- The full text for the Standard Solar AIMA can be found at <https://agr.illinois.gov/resources/aima.html>