

The NYSERDA Smart Solar Siting Scorecard is a central mechanism for steering solar development toward sites and practices that minimize negative impacts on agriculture and the environment, while supporting New York's clean energy targets. Can a project be blocked because of a poor scorecard?

No, a solar project in New York cannot be automatically blocked solely because of a poor score on the NYSERDA Smart Solar Siting Scorecard. NYSERDA does **not** use the Scorecard as a screening tool to preclude proposers from receiving an award based on agricultural or environmental impacts reflected in the Scorecard^{[1] [2]}. Submission of a completed Scorecard is mandatory, but the information is primarily used to inform NYSERDA and permitting authorities about the project's siting considerations and management practices^{[1] [2]}.

While the Scorecard may influence how projects are evaluated and can be referenced by permitting bodies (such as local authorities or the Office of Renewable Energy Siting), it does **not** serve as an automatic disqualifier or barrier to project approval^[1]. Instead, it encourages developers to adopt best practices and provides transparency for decision-makers and the public. Ultimately, project approval depends on a broader set of permitting and regulatory requirements, not just the Scorecard result^{[1] [2]}.



1. <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/-/media/Project/Nyserda/Files/Programs/LSR/RESRFP23-1-Smart-Solar-Siting-Scorecard-Webinar.pdf>
2. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/60a2bb02f009ad6b9f6a15f9/t/61b235dcb121812b6b8ef122/1639069148720/RESRFP21-1+Smart+Solar+Siting+Scorecard_Final.pdf