



# Ameren Illinois Energizes Second Solar Energy Facility in City of East St. Louis

The second facility marks the completion of a \$20 million clean energy investment in the community. The East St. Louis Energy Center II features over 3,000 solar panels and batteries designed to store energy for use during peak demand periods. This project adds to Ameren Illinois' \$86+ million investment in the City of East St. Louis over the last 8 years.

This site includes a 500KW Lithium Ion system to test how battery energy storage systems (BESS) can be deployed to manage electric distribution system capacity conditions. It can also reduce peak load conditions on the electric distribution system infrastructure and provide solar smoothing functionality to address intermittency issues associated with renewable energy generation.

Ameren is committed to evaluating and delivering innovative advancements that facilitate the adoption and development of clean energy resources. This includes enabling customers to transition to electric energy for transportation needs and promoting the equitable long-term growth of renewable energy.

The site also hosts a demonstration charging station that utilizes clean energy produced on-site and stored in batteries to power Ameren Illinois electric vehicles. It also serves as a learning tool for deploying customer-facing charging stations in equity-eligible investment communities.

In September 2021, Governor JB Pritzker signed the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) which set Illinois on the path to a clean energy goal of 100% by 2050 and a renewable energy goal of 50% by 2040. CEJA:

- Gave Ameren Illinois the ability to continue to deliver safe, secure, and reliable power in a cost-effective manner and hire local businesses and workers from the community to support equity in the clean energy transition. Thousands of contractor hours from local businesses were instrumental in developing these sites.
- Enabled the utility to facilitate the adoption and development of local, clean energy generation, promote the long-term growth of cleaner energy, and operate the enabling infrastructure that will support electrification of the downstate Illinois economy.
- Permitted Ameren Illinois to develop, own and operate two utility-scale solar facility pilots. The East St. Louis Energy Center II is the utility's second generating facility in 27 years. It produces a portion of the energy supply to every Ameren Illinois customer in the eastern half of East St. Louis.



## Combined Site 1 and 2 Key Facts

	Project Investment	Diverse contractor investment	Local construction-related jobs created
<b>SITE 1</b>	<b>11</b> million	<b>2.7</b> million (24.4%)	<b>56</b> 24,155 contractor work hours
<b>SITE 2</b>	<b>8.8</b> million	<b>4.2</b> million (48%)	<b>65</b> 8,389 total contractor work hours 2,414 equity eligible work hours
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19.8</b> million	<b>6.9</b> million	<b>121</b> jobs

**Maximum power production** **3,875 MW**

enough to power 650 average homes

**Solar panels** **8,370**

approx. surface of nearly 4.5 football fields

## Site 2: Project Basics

### Project Timeline

#### September 15, 2021

Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) signed into law

#### November 7, 2022

Project design, engineering and site selection started

#### October 23, 2023

Groundbreaking

#### July 29, 2024

Construction completed

- Built on 7-acres of greenfield site (1420 N. 18th St. in East St. Louis, IL). Site was previously a residential homes area that was vacated in the late 1980's.
- Diverse contractor investment – Mason's Landscaping & Construction \$686,957 and Azimuth Energy \$3,569,716.
- Local jobs – A total of 8,389 contractor hours were expended on-site of those hours 2,414 were by individuals who lived in the Equity Eligible Area. Also, 1,363 hours were by union apprentices.
- Maximum power production – 1.375MW (enough to power 200 homes).
- Solar panels: 3,078 (approx. surface area of nearly 1.5 football fields) panels auto rotate 120 degrees to track with the sun and maximize energy production.
- The site includes demonstration curbside electric vehicle charging and a battery energy storage system (BESS) to help Ameren prepare for the clean energy transition.
- Construction team had to remove two surface streets and sewer lines that extended across the site.
- Local contractors Mason Landscaping (East St. Louis), Terra 5 Construction (St. Jacob), Guarantee Electrical (Granite City), and Azimuth Energy (Fenton) used local area labor to build the facility including workers from East St. Louis.

BEFORE



AFTER



## Site 1: Project Basics

BEFORE



AFTER



- Built on 17-acre brownfield site (4511 State St. in East St. Louis, IL) across from East St. Louis High School that stood vacant since the mid-1980's.
- Project investment: \$11 million.
- Diverse contractor investment: \$2.7M (24.4%).
- Local jobs created: 56 construction-related (24,155 work hours).
- Maximum power production: 2.5 MW (enough to power 500 average homes).
- Solar panels: 5,292 (approx. surface area of nearly 3 football fields).
- Panels auto rotate 120 degrees to track with the sun and maximize energy production.
- Construction teams removed approximately 1,600 loads of asphalt and concrete and restored the site with 2,200 loads of clean soil to support vegetation.
- Local contractors Mason Landscaping (East St. Louis), Terra 5 Construction (St. Jacob), Guarantee Electrical (Granite City), and Azimuth Energy (Fenton) used local area labor to build the facility including workers from East St. Louis.
- The Energy Center features a demonstration area to provide East St. Louis School District #189 students (and other nearby districts) with learning opportunities on solar generation and renewable energy.



For more information visit <https://www.Ameren.com/illinois/company/media/eslcleanenergycenter>