

5.17.8. Safety and environmental standards.

- A. Emergency services. The large-scale solar photovoltaic installation owner or operator shall provide a copy of the project summary, electrical schematic, and site plan to the local Fire Chief and AMLP. Upon request, the owner or operator shall cooperate with local emergency services in developing an emergency response plan. All means of shutting down the solar photovoltaic installation shall be clearly marked. The owner or operator shall provide the name, phone number, and email of the person responsible for public inquiries throughout the life of the installation.
- B. Land clearing, soil erosion and habitat impacts. Clearing of natural vegetation shall be limited to what is necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation or otherwise prescribed by applicable laws, regulations, and bylaws.
- C. Landscaped buffer strip. A landscaped buffer strip is intended to provide in a reasonable time a visual barrier between the large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation and adjacent parcels. Except for vehicular and pedestrian passways, the areas shall be used only for an interplanting of deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs, with lawn or other suitable and appropriate ground cover. The buffer must provide coverage of three feet in height from the proposed grade to the top of the majority of the planting material at time of installation. Reasonable leeway may be provided by the Planning Board to allow for expected growth of the buffer strip over time. The buffer strip shall occupy at least 20% of the depth between the property line and the mandated setback of the zoning district where the installation is located. Where considered appropriate in the judgment of the Planning Board, walls and fences may be used in addition to in lieu of plantings. A planting plan showing the types, sizes and locations of material to be used shall be subject to the approval of the Planning Board. The Planning Board may waive the requirements of the visual barrier where it deems it advisable.