

# SPIES

## A tool to extend the environmental benefits of solar farms beyond low carbon energy.

Solar parks contribute towards a secure, low carbon energy future. With the help of the solar park community, we aim to extend the benefits even further.



At Lancaster University and the University of York, we are collaborating with the solar park community (civil society, policy and industrial partners) to deliver the SPIES project: Solar Park Impacts on Ecosystem Services. Ecosystem services are the benefits that ecosystems provide to society, e.g. soil carbon storage and habitat provision for protected species.

It is important that we assess the positive impacts of solar parks beyond low carbon energy to ensure that we are gaining all of the potential benefits. Assessing ecosystem services will also help reduce any negative impacts.

The primary output of the SPIES project will be a succinct and accessible decision-support tool to assess the impacts of solar parks on ecosystem services. With input from the solar park community, the SPIES tool will assist the decision making process of park development and management. It will offer a “go-to” guideline for the community nationally, allowing them to qualify and, where possible, quantify and value the ecosystem services of current and planned parks.

To help us understand the impacts of solar parks on ecosystem services, we’re asking members of the solar park community to complete a survey (available here: <https://goo.gl/5pjJsZ>). If you’re reading this, you most likely have invaluable data that is essential for helping us develop the decision-support tool. Every response will contribute towards delivering a tool that will ultimately benefit new and existing parks.



For more information, visit [www.lancaster.ac.uk/SPIES](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/SPIES) or email Richard at [r.randle-boggis@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:r.randle-boggis@lancaster.ac.uk).

