

Carilion NRV Medical Center Solar Sheep Summary

To reduce groundcover maintenance cost for the 1.3-megawatt ground mounted, single axis tracker solar array at the Carilion New River Valley Medical Center, an environmentally sustainable solution is being implemented by Secure Futures, the commercial/institutional scale developer and owner of the PV solar power system. In collaboration with local sheep producers, Cecil King and Amanda Niece, a flock of approximately 30 sheep were put out to pasture to graze the nine acres of grass groundcover in September – November 2018. This project served as a learning experience for Secure Futures in how to best manage the application of solar sheep grazing for our solar arrays. The 2019 grazing season was successful. Secure Futures plans to adjust the number of sheep put out pasture, as needed, to maintain good groundcover management, and provide adequate nutrition for the flock. A future consideration is the development of a pollinator friendly groundcover habitat, that is also compatible forage for sheep grazing.





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Also, for more information on Solar Sheep in US: <https://www.solargrazing.org/>