



## *Solar Energy . . .*

I have been working on solar sites for about two years, but it was not until recently that I started taking a bigger role into the layout of the site and I still have a lot to learn. As a civil engineering firm, we do not determine how many panels are required, the panel layout, or how much energy they need or can produce. The electrical engineers take care of those details. We play a big role in helping our clients make sure that the land they are looking at provides a feasible site.



Our desktop review process is the primary method we use to evaluate sites for feasible development. This process allows us to identify many difficulties that may arise through the permitting and design process and whether any of those issues are critical enough to stop the project before it starts. Following our desktop review process, we engage in conversations with our clients by providing them advice and insight on how best to move forward.

So far this year, we have been able to work with our clients, local governments, other firms and agencies to design solar parks through a variety of interesting obstacles. Some of these obstacles include wooded areas, steep grade changes across a site, regulated drains that need relocated and determining equipment elevations to keep panels above the flood fringe of nearby waterways. Each of these obstacles presented new problems that I had never seen before, but thanks to our experienced staff and working with the local government and other firms, we were able to overcome these obstacles.



Currently, there are three solar sites under construction and one moving toward final plans. With over three (3) years of working on solar sites and many more years in evaluating other sites for a variety of different projects, Banning Engineering is dedicated to making "your project our priority". Let us know how we can help you evaluate your potential project locations.

*~ Wade Banning*