NATURE INCLUSIVE SOLAR PARKS

MANAGEMENT TOOL & CERTIFICATION

The Nature Inclusive Solar Park management tool and certification (NISP) has been created through collaboration of Leafteasers B.V. and Kiwa

leafteasers kiwa

GENERATE & REGENERATE

What does it mean to generate and regenerate? Well, the need to generate energy for our society in a renewable, locally-produced manner is undeniable.

The choice seems simple — move away from extremely polluting, geopolitically-tied fossil fuel sources, and move towards renewables sources, including the most abundant, ever-present source of energy that exists. The sun.

In one year, the sun produces irradiation that is 10000 times higher than the world's rate of energy consumption. This is an opportunity like no other.

However, the process, purpose and outcomes of solar energy generation do not always meet expectations, and there is more to sustaining life and livelihood on this planet than energy.

We want to regenerate energy landscapes to make them responsible and desirable regional developments. A regenerative approach ensures that economic prosperity occurs not at the expense of the society and the environment.

We see solar parks as an opportunity to generate and regenerate – to create synergy between nature, climate, economy and people. We call this opportunity Certified Nature Inclusive Solar Parks.

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WHAT IS NISP?

Leafteasers in collaboration with Kiwa have created the world's first management tool and certification for Nature Inclusive Solar Parks (NISP).

NISP balances energy generation with the regeneration of ecosystems and biodiversity, the reestablishment of nature and landscapes, alongside attentive community involvement.

NISP has been developed in response to a number of ongoing issues in solar park development – namely landscape integration, solar park appearance, suboptimal land use, land quality degradation, stakeholder dissatisfaction and project cancellation.

NISP is a comprehensive management tool and policy instrument, composed of measures to overcome these exact issues. These measures are inspired by up-to-date industry and scientific knowledge, and therefore will have real impact.

A NISP certificate demonstrates that nature, landscape and stakeholders are not just a side-thought, but that ambition and responsibility are core characteristics of the solar park development approach.

"LEAFTEASERS IS YOUR ONE-STOP-SHOP FOR SETTING UP A NISP!"

Our advisers will take responsibility of the ecosystem, landscape, biodiversity and stakeholder engagement aspects of the NISP tool, thus taking a huge workload off the solar developer. In this time where more is expected of solar park developments, NISP offers guidance, it allows solar developers to prove their ambition and it creates desirable developments for the local area and its people."

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WHO IS NISP FOR?

SOLAR PARK DEVELOPERS

Solar developers can develop their solar parks using the NISP management tool to become NISP certified.

The NISP certification helps solar developers stand out from the crowd. NISP has an added MVO / CSR value, as you can show you are working on topics like carbon sequestration, habitat creation and local economic participation alongside solar park development.

The NISP approach reduces risk of project rejection or standstill and ultimately, the solar park still generates electricity and return on investment. Furthermore, as the electricity is generated on land which shares an ecological purpose, it could even hold more value on grid market.

MUNICIPALITIES

A statement is just a statement, but a certification speaks volumes.

Municipalities can be assured of beneficial developments in their regions by requiring or incentivising the NISP certification in the tender or permit process. A solar developer following the NISP process demonstrates a consistent follow-through of the initial plans submitted in the tender, and takes measures which are specific to the solar park site and the surrounding region.

Encouraging and requiring NISP from municipal level forgoes risky situations related to solar developments, i.e. inadequate effort to take stakeholders into account, inadequate landscape coverage and maximised pv panel coverage. NISP can be seen as a useful toolkit or policy instrument to embed the municipalities sustainability goals into solar park developments.

COMMUNITIES

It is crucial is that communities are happy with the developments which occur in their local area.

That is why NISP puts forward a best practise method for meaningful engagement with communities and other key stakeholders. This method aims to understand preferences, and where feasible, embed these within the project. NISP can also help in giving structure and professionalization to community energy cooperatives.

NISP is about working towards a solution that works for the region and its people. This could be combining agriculture on site through sheep grazing, agrivoltaics or agroforestry. It could also mean that locals own panels or beehives on the solar park, or that they can enjoy a leisurely stroll within the Nature Inclusive Solar Park. Local communities can also be given the opportunity to buy panels within the park. Many multifunctional options are possible — they aren't mandatory, but they are special!

LANDOWNERS

If you want to sell or rent out your land, but ensure a bright future for it, NISP is a great solution.

NISP has a mission to limit damage to the land by taking measures to improve soil quality and water management. This way the land can sustain itself for future, to provide food and a healthy ecosystem.

NISP – **BRL K11007**

3 MAIN THEMES

The Nature Inclusive Solar Park certification and management tool, also known as the BRL K11007 (Beoordelings richtlijn/ Assessment tool), contains the key themes of Technology, Ecosystem, Landscape and Stakeholder Engagement. It is broken down into 5 phases which represent the development phases of creating a solar park.

The BRL is also a useful guide for solar park project development. It provides technical and process checklists throughout and it also draws attention to relevant regulations and policy. The requirements often put forward guidelines of measures to take, but they allow some flexibility on how exactly to carry out these measures.

ECOSYSTEM

Provides measures to boost biodiversity, including types of refuge areas and vegetation structures.

LANDSCAPE

Regards the positioning of technical and ecosystem aspects and spatial integration matters.

TECHNOLOGY

Includes technical component checklists, plus security and safety measures.

5 PHASES

The phases fits around the standard regulatory procedures related to the permit process. In the first two phases a solar park developer will build on the initial research and design that was developed for the tender proposal. Following this, phase 3 and 4 should be carried out.

After phase 4 is completed – the realisation of the park — the solar developer can ask Kiwa to assess the evidence and assess if the park can be certified. The solar developers organisation also becomes certified by following the quality management requirements within the BRL. Kiwa provides the solar developer with an audit tool to help them check if the necessary points are covered, and to give an idea of which certification level they are aiming for.

The park and organisation can be certified if there are no non-conformities. Following this, the requirements in phase 5 should be carried out. One year after the original certification is awarded, all evidence is reviewed during an audit.

1. INVENTORY
- Identify stakeholders
- Area research

2. DESIGN
- Draft design plan
- Visualisation

3. DETAILING
- Detailed plan
- Plan maintenance activities

4. REALISATION
- Work preparation
- Ecologically considerate construction

5. STEWARDSHIP
- Carry out maintenance
- Carry out end-of-life considerations

LEAFTEASERS
ADVISORY SERVICES

Leafteasers is your one-stop-shop for setting up a NISP.

Our advisers will take responsibility of the ecosystem and landscape themes, and help out with stakeholder engagement aspects of the BRL, thus taking a huge workload off the solar developer. Where the BRL provides guidelines, Leafteasers fills in the details with relevant suggestions. The aim of Leafteasers is to help carry the solar developer through to becoming certified.

ECOSYSTEM REQUIREMENTS | **LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS** | **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS** | **STAKEHOLDER REQUIREMENTS**

○ Leafteasers' responsability ○ Solar Developer's responsability

OUR **SERVICES** INCLUDE:

TOOL SUPPORT

- Support for the use of the management tool.
- Assistance in gaining the organisational certificate.
- Optional assistance in gaining ISO 9001 — quality management system.
- Fulfilling many of the certification requirements so the solar developer can concentratemainly on technical requirements.
- Submitting evidence towards certification.

ADVICE

- Advice and decision-making throughout the process on fulfilling the tool requirements.
- Fitting suggestions for combining vegetation aspects and multifunctional land use aspects with solar panel arrays e.g to limit shading.
- Procurement advice for vegetation and habitat elements
- Site and region-specific suggestions
- Innovative ideas to minimise ecological issues on solar parks

DOCUMENTATION AND REGULATION

- Fulfilling regulatory needs – e.g. natuurtoets
- Documentation which can be used towards the permit application.
- Contribution to feasibility studies with regard to ecosystem and landscape matters
- Reporting about biodiversity and ecology on NISP site for use with stakeholders and business networks.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE

- Replaced need for hiring in ecology, landscaping and stakeholder specialists.
- When the solar developers has in-house personnel for ecology, stakeholder engagement and landscaping, Leafteasers will work side-by-side, covering the tasks pertaining to the BRL.
- Structural team work among project personnel throughout the 5 stage trajectory
- Preparing, conducting & analysing stakeholder engagement activities pertaining to the BRL.
- Liaising with the municipality to embed social and environmental goals in the NISP park.
- End-of-life solar park plan assistance.
- Create park landscaping.
- Vegetation and optional multifunctionality measures to be paid from solar developing party.
- Creation of densely shaded landscape view with biodiverse vegetation and habitat creation.

MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING

- Creation of maintenance plans
- 3 years maintenance and monitoring work covered
- Reponses to environmental feedbacks
- Provision of baseline and post-realisation environmental research data, and analysis thereof, to be able to demonstrate environmental remediation.

GET IN TOUCH AND WE CAN DRAW UP AN OFFER!

GET INVOLVED!

Get onboard with the world's first and only certification for Responsible, forward-thinking Nature Inclusive Solar Parks.

This way we will bring habitat restoration and renewable solar energy generation to every climate and corner of the planet.

Leafteasers and Kiwa are rolling out NISP to become the global standard for solar parks.

Contact us to request a quote for your specific NISP project:

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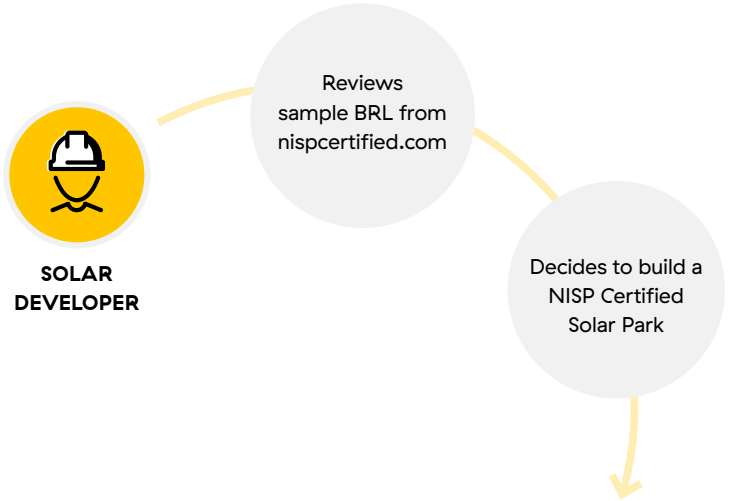
PROCESS OF GETTING INVOLVED



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