

Solar Pumps

Specification extract · Pages 90–92

What this document is

This is an extract of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) document “ACRES Co-operation Non-Productive Investments Specification”, Version 2.2, July 2026. It contains the pages covering the Solar Pumps action (pages 90–92 of the full specification).

Because the specification runs each action straight into the next, the first and last pages of this extract may also show the end or beginning of a neighbouring action. The section for this action starts on page 90 (the printed page number matches the page number in the full document).

Always check the current version

DAFM updates the specification from time to time. The full document is the authoritative version and should be consulted before undertaking any work. It is available from:

Full specification (PDF, opens at this action):

https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/f8e2ccf8/NPI_specifications_July_2026_2.pdf#page=90

ACRES NPI page on gov.ie:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/f5a48-agri-climate-rural-environment-scheme-acres/#non-productive-investments>

About this action on the ACRES CP website

<https://acresireland.ie/action-projects/npi-solar-pumps/>

distributions in grazing pressure, often resulting in overgrazing at entrances, near watering points and in areas of more palatable vegetation. This in turn leads to the over dominance of rushes and brambles in less favoured areas.

Improved fencing permits the adoption of management techniques like conservation or rotational grazing that can deliver sward improvements.

Site Suitability

- This action can only be selected on parcels with an Eligible hectare > 0.
- This action is available on CP parcels only that will be claimed by the participant for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
- This action can only be selected on fields that have a scorecard submitted and is available on any scorecard.

Requirements

1. Purchase and install a new solar electric fencer unit. The minimum standard is 0.4 Joule of stored energy.
2. The initial location of the mobile solar electric fencer unit must be identified and marked on the map submitted. Each unit applied for is only eligible for one NPI payment and once claimed must be retained for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
3. The participant must retain receipts for the Solar Fencer for the remainder of the ACRES contract and for twelve months after the date of submission of any claim for payment.
4. Where a Solar Electric Fencer Unit has been grant aided under TAMS or any other National/EU funded Agri-environment or Capital investment Scheme from 01 January 2018, this cannot fulfil the requirement for this ACRES Solar Electric Fencer Unit NPI.
5. Only one claim for payment is allowed per approved NPI-Annual Works Plan. This action can only be claimed for payment once delivered in accordance with NPI Specification.

Additional Guidance:

Solar electric fencer units/chargers are mobile equipment, they can be placed at any safe and practical location where they can be attached to an electric fence. To ensure adequate operation they should not be placed in the shade. They can be lifted and put into storage when not in use.

Solar Pumps

Objectives

Provide a solar-powered fixed or a mobile solar water pump unit that is capable of pumping water from a safe supply to livestock water troughs.

Background

Having a well-installed water supply and storage system is vital for appropriate livestock management on scored fields. Water troughs provide alternative drinking points to natural water sources which can become damaged if overused by stock. Solar pumps can be a

sustainable and cost-effective method of supplying water to these water storage and provisioning systems.

Site Suitability

- This action can only be selected on parcels with an Eligible hectare > 0.
- This action is available on CP parcels only that will be claimed by the participant for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
- This action can only be selected on fields that have a scorecard submitted and is available on any scorecard.
- The bed of the watercourse should not be disturbed.
- Water troughs supplied by Solar Pumps NPI must not be located on or within close proximity to an archaeological monument or result in new or additional tracking of vehicles or livestock on or near a monument or archaeological feature. Ongoing monitoring will be required to ensure that archaeological monuments are not impacted upon.

Requirements

1. Install a solar powered fixed or mobile pump that is capable of pumping water from a safe supply to livestock water troughs and/or a water storage tank.
2. The initial location of the solar pump must be identified and marked on the map submitted. Each solar pump applied for is only eligible for one NPI payment and once claimed must be retained for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
3. The solar pump must be purchased new with the system including a pump, solar panels, battery back-up, and inlet hose. There is no payment for any concrete base to mount the system on or for digging wells.
4. The participant must retain receipts displaying the serial number for the pump for the remainder of the ACRES contract and for twelve months after the date of submission of any claim for payment.
5. The pump must be available for use to supply water troughs in a CP parcel. It must be stored on the farm holding when not in use.
6. Where a Solar Pump has been grant aided under TAMS or any other National/EU funded Agri-environment or Capital investment Scheme from 01 January 2018, this cannot fulfil the requirement for this ACRES Solar Pump NPI.
7. Only one claim for payment is allowed per approved NPI-Annual Works Plan. This action can only be claimed for payment once delivered in accordance with NPI Specification.

Additional Guidance:

- The pump should be suitably protected from livestock or wildlife damage.
- The pump should abstract water from a watercourse or waterbody with an adequate supply - inadequate supply can lead to environmental issues, poor quality water supply, and pump failure.
- All water troughs or containers connected to the solar pump should be located at least 20m from a drain, pond, lake or watercourse.

Picture 10: Example of an installed Solar Pump



Source: ACRES Burren Aran

Water Storage Tanks

Objective

To encourage the installation of a network of clean water sources that will offer multiple benefits for livestock management on species-rich areas.

Background

Having a well-installed water supply and storage system is vital for appropriate livestock management on scored fields. They provide alternative drinking points to natural water sources which can become damaged if overused by stock. They can be strategically installed to encourage grazing in specific areas of a plot. Water storage tanks can play a key role in storing water for these systems.

Site Suitability

- This action can be selected on parcels with an Eligible hectare ≥ 0