

Annual Benefit Report  
of  
SolarHoney SBC  
A Minnesota Specific Public Benefit Corporation

March 2, 2025<sup>1</sup>

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SolarHoney LLC was incorporated on 5/30/2017 as a Specific Benefit Corporation under Minnesota's Public Benefit Corporation Act (the "Act"). Pursuant to Section 304A.101 of the Act, Solar Honey specific public benefit purpose as stated in its Articles of Incorporation is to promote pollinator-friendly solar gardens and to help establish a national standard for honey produced in solar gardens—SolarHoney.

Throughout this report, SolarHoney SBC will be referred to as The SolarHoney Company or may refer to itself as "SHC", "we", or "our" or "us."

With regard to the period covered by this report, January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, SHC pursued the specific public benefit purpose stated in its Articles of Incorporation in the following ways:

- 1) SHC had a hives placed at multiple solar developers pollinator-friendly solar arrays. Producing SolarHoney® (trademarked the term in 2017). This honey was jarred in custom jars and used as a hero ingredient. The SolarHoney is tangible and edible tool that is used to remind those who are consuming the honey of pollinator-friendly solar.
  - a. Solar Energy companies gave the SolarHoney product to their solar subscribers , board of directors, investors, landowners, and used for local community events.
  - b. Honey has been sold at various events, at local gift shops in MN, at known grocery stores within MN, and to solar developers throughout the nation.
  - c. SolarHoney product has also been used as a hero ingredient for the MN Honey Producers Associations State Fair ice cream. It was both in the ice cream and drizzled on top.
  - d. SolarHoney product was used as a hero ingredient in 56 Brewing's SolarHoney IPA Beer called Solarama Crush.



2) Some of SHC 's press coverage:

### **National GeoGraphic**

Beekeepers Sweeten Solar Sites With the 'Tesla of Honey'

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/06/chasing-genius-solar-honey-pollinator-friendly-energy/>

### **Martha Stewart**

It's Not Just the Bees and Flowers That Make This Garden Special --Something sweet is happening here.

<http://www.marthastewart.com/1515801/bees-garden-solar-energy-new-good-partnership>

### **Al Jazeera**

Solar's Sweet Side

[https://www.facebook.com/ajplusenglish/videos/1076828839125289/?hc\\_ref=ARQtI9d\\_OgtJBM76tMx944gKGpNtgcFe6qqwgOnbJ\\_xiCS4r3j3APMN3I-wmUOPZ7OI](https://www.facebook.com/ajplusenglish/videos/1076828839125289/?hc_ref=ARQtI9d_OgtJBM76tMx944gKGpNtgcFe6qqwgOnbJ_xiCS4r3j3APMN3I-wmUOPZ7OI)

## **Smithsonian Magazine**

Solar Power and Honey Bees Make a Sweet Combo in Minnesota: The Pollinator Friendly Solar Act has solar companies and commercial beekeepers working together <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/solar-power-and-honey-bees-180964743/>

## **EcoWatch**

Turning Solar Sites Into Pollinator-Friendly Habitats Is the Sweetest Idea

## **Modern Farmer**

Solar Power and Honey Bees Make a Sweet Combo in Minnesota  
<http://modernfarmer.com/2017/09/solar-honey-in-minnesota/>

## **Star Tribune**

*Ramsey energy company finds perfect pairing in putting bees, solar panels together*  
<http://www.startribune.com/ramsey-energy-company-shoots-for-gooey-gold-beneath-its-solar-array/420790913/>

## **Solar Energy Made 'Sweet' at Connexus**

CTN Coon Rapids

<https://youtu.be/PXdleMoFnUk>

## **Pioneer Press**

*Super bees that can survive St. Paul winters? You bee-tcha. This couple breeds 'em.*

<http://www.twincities.com/2017/05/14/st-paul-beekeepers-creating-a-buzz/>

## **Sustainable Brands**

Pollinator-Friendly Solar Arrays in Minnesota Now Commercially Produce Honey

[http://www.sustainablebrands.com/news\\_and\\_views/product\\_innovation/libby\\_maccarthy/pollinator-friendly\\_solar\\_arrays\\_minnesota\\_now\\_com](http://www.sustainablebrands.com/news_and_views/product_innovation/libby_maccarthy/pollinator-friendly_solar_arrays_minnesota_now_com)

## **Solar Power World**

May 2017 issue: The buzz around pollinator friendly solar plants

<http://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2017/05/may-2017-issue-buzz-around-pollinator-friendly-solar-plants/>

- 3) SHC has also received awards from the Minnesota Business Magazine. Throughout the year this magazine nominates Minnesota businesses for achievements in different categories. Business and individuals throughout the state vote on contestants and the winners are then nominated.
  - a. Finalist in the Food Producer category for Most Likely To Succeed.
  - b. Owners, Chiara and Travis Bolton, featured as a “35 and Under Young Entrepreneurs.”
  - c. Winners of the 2018 Community Impact Awards. This award honors businesses, social enterprise organizations, nonprofits, initiatives and individuals making a significant impact on communities in Minnesota. SHC won the Sustainability Award, which recognizes Minnesota for-profit businesses for implementing or supporting programs in the office or beyond that promote sustainability, the environment or the local ecosystem

SHC is planning on having hives on pollinator-friendly solar arrays in 2023. Our goal is to continue to have the SolarHoney product produced make an impact. The more awareness SolarHoney spreads, the better. By promoting the SolarHoney brand, we believe, will encourage public support of sustainable solar energy and help create healthy habitats for bees and other pollinators.

The creation of pollinator habitat is important because:

Finding healthy habitat for bees can be a challenge. Providing pollinator friendly habitat is one of the most significant actions that can be taken to support pollinators. The bees will collect pollen and nectar from resources within a three-mile radius of the hives to use as food. The more available healthier options (vs heavily managed conventional farming) that bees have, the more productive and healthier they will be. Unfortunately, bees are dying at an alarming rate<sup>2</sup> for a variety of factors, including lack of healthy habitat. The Federal Pollinator Protection plan established a goal of 7 million new acres of pollinator habitat—an “all hands on deck” moment for organizations to create healthy habitat.

In May 2013, the Minnesota legislature adopted a mandate on investor-owned utilities that requires them to produce 1.5% of their electricity from solar power by 2020. Tens of thousands of acres of solar sites will be built in the region over the next three years—typically, with turf grass or gravel under the panels.

Our partnership with solar developers is promoting the use of land underneath the panels. By planting the land pollinator-friendly, solar developers are creating habitat for all pollinators. This is important because bee pollination is vital to agriculture—contributing >\$19 billion annually.



Solar Honey’s mission is to promote the productive use of land under and around ground-mounted solar panels. We believe that there is a better way: planting pollinator-friendly solar and co-locating beehives. Solar Honey ensures the productive use of farmland by stacking multiple benefits — clean solar energy, pollinator-friendly habitat, and local beekeeping — into each site. This tri-fecta only has positive repercussions.

SolarHoney<sup>®</sup> standard encourages the creation of new foraging habitat under and around ground-mounted solar panels for a wide variety of pollinators, birds, and other wildlife.

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## **CERTIFICATION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS [SBC]**

The undersigned, being all the directors of SolarHoney Company, hereby acknowledge and certify that we have reviewed and approved the enclosed Annual Benefit Report.

Chiara Bolton



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[Name of Director]



Travis Bolton

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[Name of Director]

## **SUBMISSION:**

I, the undersigned, certify that I am the Chief Executive Officer of this public benefit corporation. I further certify that I have signed this document no more than 30 days before the document is delivered to the secretary of state for filing, and that this document is current when signed. I further certify that I have provided all required information and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.



Chiara Bolton, Owner

March 2, 2025



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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve Simon'.

Steve Simon  
Secretary of State