Traditional solar trackers require **mass grading**, which **destroys** topsoil and natural vegetation, **increasing** runoff and **damaging** watersheds.

The Nevados TRACE All Terrain Tracker® uses **articulating couplers** to follow the land's natural contours, **eliminating** site grading, and **protecting** both the **ecosystem** and your **project economics**.

Proactive stormwater management: Protecting existing vegetation by eliminating site grading

The 170 MWdc Bartonsville Energy Facility solar project was awarded the gold medal as a model of environmental stewardship and innovation by Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality.

Goal

Project developers sought to reduce environmental impacts and costs by avoiding the extensive grading of solar sites.

Methods

Articulating couplers and non-continuous torque tubes were used in the Nevados TRACE All Terrain Tracker® to handle slopes of up to 37% without grading.

These improvements also avoid having to drive steel pilings to variable reveal heights for the foundations.

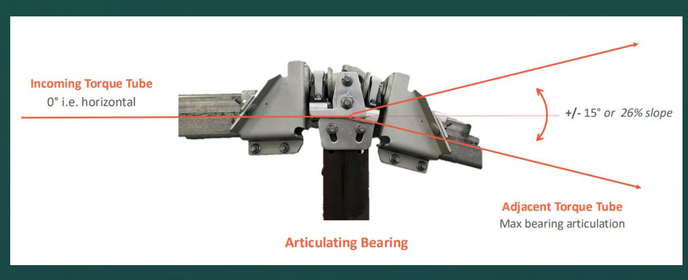
Results

- A 170MWdc project in Virginia reduced graded soil by more than 400,000 cubic yards.
- It also saved 230,000 linear feet of steel and was faster to install.
- Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin awarded the project a gold medal for watershed protection.

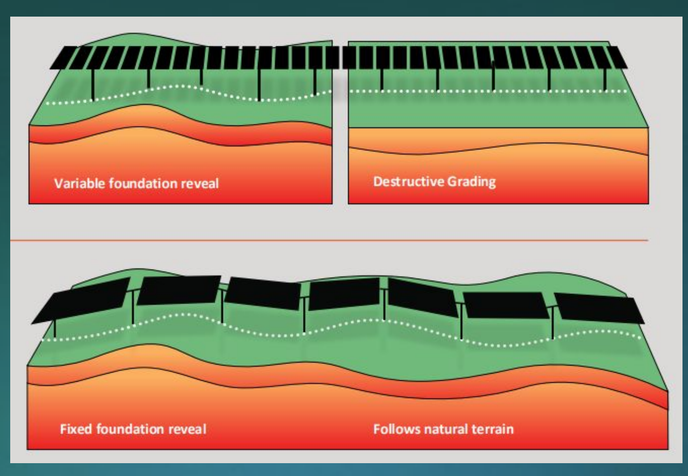
Conclusion

Developers can protect watersheds from erosion, flooding, and muddy runoff without costly mitigation, if they choose trackers that minimize topsoil disturbance and preserve vegetation during construction,

Innovative terrain tech lowers cost, speeds installation



Articulating couplers in the TRACE All Terrain Tracker® allow slope adjustment at each post.



This contrasts with traditional trackers, which require variable foundation heights and/or destructive grading to flatten the array.

$7,500

avoided cost per megawatt

Average avoided cost of meeting stormwater prevention plan requirements for graded projects across all topographies. Avoided costs are higher for hilly sites. Source: Primoris

Acknowledgements

- Sierra Overhead Analytics
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Scan here to learn more

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