# 951822200038 Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

### Minnesota Public Benefit Corporation / Annual Benefit Report

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 304A

Read the instructions before completing this form Must be filed by March 31

Filing Fee: \$55 for expedited service in-person, \$35 if submitted by mail



1. Corporate Name: (Required) SolarHone	y, <del>SPB</del> ≤ IS C
2. The public benefit corporation's board of d	irectors has reviewed and approved this report.
	quired by section 304A.301 subd. 2 or 3 for the period covered by this report, ie: Use additional sheets if needed. (Required)
See Attached	
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# Annual Benefit Report of SolarHoney A Minnesota Specific Public Benefit Corporation

March 20, 20191

<sup>\*</sup>Report must be received by the MN SOS by April 1, 2019



Solar Honey SBC 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's specific public benefit purpose as stated in it's 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, Solar Honey SBC will be referred to as The Solar Honey Company or may refer to itself as "SHC", "we", or "our" or "us."

With regard to the period covered by this report, January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018, SHC pursued the specific public benefit purpose stated in its Articles of Incorporation in the following ways:

- 1) SHC had a total of 45 hives placed on three separate solar developers pollinator-friendly solar arrays. Producing 2,000 pounds of SolarHoney™ (we trademarked the term in 2017). This honey was jarred in custom jars and used as a "hero" ingredient. The SolarHoney is a tangible and edible reminder those who are consuming the honey of pollinator-friendly solar.
  - a. 12.5 oz. by weight jars were custom made for Connexus Energy. They gave the honey to their solar subscribers and for local community events.
  - b. 6oz jars by weight were jarred and have been sold at various events, at local gift shops in MN, and to solar developers throughout the nation.
  - c. SolarHoney has also been used as a hero ingredient for the MN Honey Producers Association's State Fair ice cream in 2017. It was both in the ice cream and drizzled on top.
    - d. SolarHoney is was used as a hero ingredient in 56 Brewing's SolarHoney IPA Beer called Solarama Crush. This beer was on tap at the brewery.



	Beekeepers Sweeten Solar Sites With the 'Tesla of Honey'
	http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/06/chasing-genius-solar-honey-pollinator-
	friendly-energy/
	It's Not Just the Bees and Flowers That Make This Garden SpecialSomething sweet is happening here.
••	http://www.marthastewart.com/1515801/bees-garden-solar-energy-new-good-
	partnership
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	Solar's Sweet Side
	https://www.facebook.com/ajplusenglish/videos/1076828839125289/?hc_ref=ARQtl9d_Ogt.
	M76tMx944gKGpNtgcFe6qqwgOnbJ_xiCS4r3j3APMN3I-wmUOPZ7OI
	Friendly Solar Act has solar companies and commercial beekeepers working together <a href="http://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/solar-power-and-honey-bees-180964743/">http://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/solar-power-and-honey-bees-180964743/</a>
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http://www.twincities.com/2017/05/14/st-paul-beekeepers-creating-a-buzz/

Pollinator-Friendly Solar Arrays in Minnesota Now Commercially Produce Honey
<a href="http://www.sustainablebrands.com/news">http://www.sustainablebrands.com/news</a> and views/product innovation/libby maccarthy/pollin
ator-friendly solar arrays minnesota now com

May 2017 issue: The buzz around pollinator friendly solar plants <a href="http://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2017/05/may-2017-issue-buzz-around-pollinator-friendly-solar-plants/">http://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2017/05/may-2017-issue-buzz-around-pollinator-friendly-solar-plants/</a>

- 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. Winner 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 60 hives on pollinator-friendly solar arrays in 2018. Our goal it to continue to have the SolarHoney produced make an impact. The more awareness SolarHoney spreads, the better. By promoting the SolarHoney brand, we 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 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™ 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.

The Board of Directors have reviewed and approved the enclosed Annual Benefit Report.

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, 22 2019



## Work Item 1078147600032 Original File Number 951822200038

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
04/01/2019 11:59 PM

Steve Simon Secretary of State

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