



Bar Harbor's Bold Road to Solar

Gary Friedmann, Bar Harbor Town Council

Public Works Building

First municipal PPA in Emera territory (Energized 12.4.2015)

Largest Array on MDI: 288 panels/75kW

Annual output (projected): 75,000 kW hrs





PPA Specs

Annual Solar Energy Payments (average - years 1-6): \$7,800

Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) average years 1-6: \$2,600

Approximate Value of system upon installation: \$225,000

Buyout after year 6 (projected): \$80,000

Advantages of the PPA

- No up-front cost to Town
- Town pays same or slightly less for electricity during first 6 years
- With 6-year CIP budget of \$13,000, can buy out system in year 7 and eliminate energy costs for that facility for 25 years
- For-profit corporation gets 30% Federal Tax Credit and depreciation
- Working with ReVision to manage peak loads during first 6 years will allow Town to save even more money





Timeline

October 2013: Council adopts goal of evaluating the Town's rooftops for the feasibility of installing photovoltaic panels to reduce the Town's energy costs and carbon footprint.

Nov-Dec 2013: ReVision Energy selected as solar contractor.

January - March 2014: COA Senior Project performs inventory of all town properties for PV potential; electricity consumption; and current costs per kWhr.

April-May 2014: ReVision recommends 360kW PPA; Council accepts recommendations and begins search for investors.

Autumn 2014: Town begins investigation of Community Solar Farm options with ReVision

Winter 2014 -Spring 2015: Legal requirement for Town Meeting approval requires meetings with Warrant Committee and public outreach.

June 2015: Town Meeting approves (87 Yes to 66 No) lease of Town property for PPAs and CSFs

Summer 2015: Council approves PPA contract and site for CSF

December 2015: PPA energized; CSF has 3 deposits and many more under consideration



Lessons Learned

- Do your homework
 - *Inventory prospective Town sites*
 - *Economics and PR matter*
 - *Identify good partners to contract and finance the project*
 - *Cultivate support on Council and in Town staff*
- Educate the community
- Establish short-term and long-term goals
- Celebrate Success!



Next Steps

- Solarize MDI in 2016
- Develop vacant Town property for solar power generation
- *A Climate to Thrive* – A citizen's movement to make MDI Energy Independent by 2030, with initiatives toward:
 - *Energy conservation and weatherization*
 - *Solar propagation*
 - *Other alternative energy developments*
 - *Sustainable transportation options*
 - *Local foods*
 - *Zero waste*
 - *Improved Public Policies that encourage and support a green economy*