

City of New Bedford Reaches Energy Milestone with Commissioning of 4.1 MW Solar Project in New Bedford Business Park



Two Thirds of New Bedford's Electricity Now Generated by Solar

A new 4.1 MW solar facility in the New Bedford Business Park now supplies the City of New Bedford and Cape Cod Community College with clean and affordable energy. The "Tom Davis Solar Park" is the third solar project developed by SunEdison and BlueWave in partnership with the City of New Bedford and meets the City's goal to obtain two thirds of its municipal power from solar energy. The City of New Bedford's achievements in implementing a comprehensive renewable energy strategy have cemented its place as a state and national leader.

Project Profile: Tom Davis Solar Project

Industry: Municipal Government

Location: New Bedford Business Park, Massachusetts

Off-taker: City of New Bedford and Cape Cod Community College

System Type: Ground Mount

System Size: 4.1 MW

Production: 4,860 MWh (Year 1)

Financing: Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)

“What was once a modest local effort here in New Bedford has turned into one of the nation’s most ambitious moves to adopt solar. Now, in addition to the Sullivan’s Ledge Solar Project and the Plymouth Solar Project, this project is quietly generating power, cutting City utility bills and saving taxpayer dollars. Our renewable power program is also strengthening our City’s economy and our environment in a big way. I could not be prouder of the creativity, commitment, and teamwork of all those here who helped us reach our goals.” - New Bedford Mayor, Jon Mitchell.

Significant Milestone for New Bedford

The city and college are buying the solar energy through a 20-year power purchase agreement.

The solar power plant is expected to produce enough electricity each year to power more than 460 homes, and is expected to eliminate the emissions of more than seven million pounds of carbon dioxide, the equivalent of taking more than 706 cars off the road.

“We’re excited to again be working with New Bedford in support of their renewable energy goals,” said Steve Raeder, managing director of distributed generation eastern USA at SunEdison.

“This is the third solar system SunEdison and BlueWave have developed for the city under Mayor Mitchell’s administration, which has quickly become a shining example of how municipalities can save money and reduce their carbon footprint at the same time with solar.”

An Off-Site Solution

SunEdison and BlueWave worked with the City of New Bedford to provide another off-site solar project that utilizes virtual net metering. New Bedford purchases electricity from the solar array at a steady, predictable rate from SunEdison over a 20 year period. Upon receiving virtual net metering credits each month, the City reduces its electricity expenditure.



SunEdison and BlueWave Partnership

The solar power plant is one of the 12 projects SunEdison acquired from BlueWave Capital, LLC in June of 2014.

SunEdison partnered with BlueWave Capital to develop the project, arranged construction financing and permanent financing, and managed local partners to provide EPC services.

“New Bedford didn’t get to be a national leader in renewable energy by accident. With Mayor Mitchell’s leadership and a great team of public servants, and very talented professionals from SunEdison, BlueWave and ProTech this project represents another star on the solar scoreboard for the City,” said John DeVillars, Managing Principal of BlueWave Capital.

SunEdison is a leading provider of solar energy services, serving business, public sector, utility, and residential customers. SunEdison is dedicated to transforming lives by delivering economical, clean, renewable energy to communities around the globe.

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