

Town of Hamilton Garage – 2013 Solar Project Fact Sheet

The Town Council decided in summer 2012 to pursue participating in the Solarize Madison Project (www.solarizemadison.com) in an effort to save the town money while taking advantage of greener energy programs.

Two options were explored: 1-Solar for the town garage and Lighting Districts in Hubbardsville and Poolville; 2-Town Garage Only. Option 2 was selected to install Solar Panels for the Town Garage since there were complications for the lighting districts.

The company working with the Town is Arista Power Inc. (www.arista.com)

Quick information on the system:

- Installing (#60) 265W SolarWorld Monocrystalline Panels (original plan called for (#63) 250W panels) that will be oriented 187 degrees; 10 degree tilt angle. (www.solarworld.com)
- Total System capacity= 15.9kW (original plan was going to be a 15.75kW system)
- Inverter is an EnPhase Energy M215 micro inverter (www.enphase.com)
- The system will produce about 17,802 kWh per year and cover 96% of the total usage.
- Payback period = about 14.54 years
- The equipment features a 25 year power warranty and has a 25+ year lifespan.
- Town will save\$ 85,259 for over first 25 years.
- Average monthly savings = \$302
- Average cost of electricity over 25 years (4/kWh) = 0.088
- Total Life Cycle Payback (25 years) – 230%

Project Timeline

- In October 2012, a contract was signed with Arista Power to take advantage of the Solarize Madison project and to secure NYSERDA grant/rebate before the program ended.
- April 2013 – 50% deposit to Arista
- June 2013 - **Installation rescheduled for week of June 24th.**
 - It will take about 5 business days to install, weather dependent.
 - Once installed, it takes up to 10 days for NYSEG to come in and switch the meter before going live.
 - Michael Hedges (Arista) will contact NYSEG to see if they can come sooner if we want to plan a flip the switch ceremony/press conference.

Solar Project Costs:

- Total project cost: \$63,000 (100%)
- NYSERDA Rebate (\$1.50/watt installed): \$23,625 (38%)
- Town's Portion: \$39,375 (coming from General Fund Balance)

ABOUT SOLARIZE MADISON PROGRAM (from homepage on website)

www.solarizemadison.com

Solarize Madison is a community-focused renewable energy program promoting sustainable energy production to stabilize current and future energy costs. Solarize Madison is brought to you by Madison County Planning Department and the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board with support from the Renewable Energy Training Center at Morrisville State College.

We are bringing solar energy to our neighbors at affordable costs through volume purchasing. Together we decide who to hire and what we can afford. Solarize Madison will bring at least thirty (30) solar photovoltaic (PV) installations to Madison County. By working with state and county organizations, Madison county residents, and solar energy installers, Solarize Madison County will streamline the installation process making solar energy installations easy and affordable for Madison County residents, farmers, business owners, municipalities and institutions.

When communities choose to run a volume purchasing program they can reduce their costs by 20-30 percent and coupled with New York and Federal tax credits and incentives, solar energy installation costs can be reduced by 70-80 percent. Energy costs are going to continue to rise as fossil fuel resources are depleted. An average solar system usually pays for itself within 30 years, but that time frame is shortened as our kWh electricity charges are increased by our electric company and property values increase.

About the Program

Solarize Madison is a grassroots community effort to develop a community solar initiative to help residents, business owners and municipalities overcome the financial and logistical hurdles of installing solar power through high volume group purchasing. The program will effectively merge community activism and education, simple low-cost marketing, job creation and economies of scale to drive participation. The goal of Solarize Madison is to transform interest in clean energy into action by tackling the three major market barriers: cost, a complex process and customer commitment. Solar energy installation contractors will be selected through a competitive bid process; collective bargaining and group purchasing should lower the out of pocket cost to participants by 20-30%. Community-led outreach marketing and education by the project managers of Solarize Madison and other trusted partners will deliver a direct appeal from one friend to another to join the campaign. Collective education and bargaining provides a safe environment for customers to feel comfortable with their investment.