

October 21, 2015

Fact Sheet: Plans To Install Solar Arrays At Municipal Locations

Earlier this year, Mayor Setti Warren initiated planning for new solar installations on up to 13 City of Newton properties. The following locations are among those which are currently being considered for solar arrays, however, no decisions have been finalized on the choice of properties:

- Rumford Avenue Resource Recovery Center (ground mounted)
- Department of Public Buildings, 52 Elliot Street (roof mounted)
- DPW, 60 Elliot Street (roof mounted and car ports)
- DPW, 70 Elliot Street (roof mounted)
- Newton South High School, 140 Brandeis Road (roof mounted and car ports)
- Newton Free Library (car ports)
- Angier School, 1697 Beacon Street (roof mounted)
- Oak Hill School, 130 Wheeler road (roof mounted)
- Lower Falls Community Center, 545 Grove Street (roof mounted)
- Bowen School, 280 Cypress Street (roof mounted)
- Fire Station 10 and Wires Division Building, 755 Dedham Street (roof mounted)
- The new Zervas School building, 30 Beethoven Avenue (roof mounted)
- Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue (roof mounted)

It is estimated that the City would save approximately \$10 million dollars over 20 years from the 13 solar array projects suggested in the list above and that those projects would generate about 2.5 to 3.0 megawatts. This would be enough to provide electricity to about 450 typical houses.

Developers have submitted proposals to the City of Newton and the proposals have been reviewed by an evaluation committee which is represented by several City departments. The evaluation committee has submitted its reports. The City will have to negotiate a purchase power agreement (PPA) with the developer for the sale of the electricity and the net metering credits that are generated by the projects. The Board of Aldermen must vote to give the Mayor approval to negotiate the leases that will be needed in order to locate solar installations on City property and complete the PPAs.

If all necessary approvals are granted, construction at solar array car port and roof locations could begin in spring 2016 and could begin on ground mounted arrays in the fall of 2016 at the Rumford Avenue Resource Recovery Center property.

The plan to install new solar arrays at municipal properties is the latest phase in a several phase effort by the City of Newton toward environmental sustainability. Since 2010, solar panels have been installed on the rooftops of six public school buildings and these solar installations save \$75,000 annually.

Energy efficiency improvements have also reduced utility costs for the City of Newton. Efficiency improvements in 14 municipal buildings have resulted in \$2.7 million in annual savings. In addition, oil to gas conversions have occurred in public buildings and 8,000 LED street lights have been installed.

Mayor Setti Warren put forth objectives for environmental sustainability when he announced the Energy Smart Newton initiative several years ago with the goal to have businesses and residences reduce electricity usage by 20% by the year 2020. One step to accomplish this goal was announced in September 2015: having 1,000 residential property owners apply for free home energy assessments before October 2016. Home energy assessments already finished between 2010-September 2015 have led to a total annual savings of \$750,000. To sign up for a free assessment for your home, please call 800-873-1649, or visit: www.newtonma.gov/homeenergyassessments

For more information regarding goals for environmental sustainability, please visit the Newton Leads 2040 homepage: www.newtonma.gov/NewtonLeads2040.

We appreciate your input and thoughts on our survey page of Newton Leads 2040. Thank you.

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