

Stratham Selectmen Meeting
January 30, 2017

Solar Project Update

History:

Early discussions began in late 2009 with the building of the New Stratham Firehouse. Caroline Robinson had a dream to bring Solar to Stratham.

After much work by the then Stratham Solar Committee; on March 2 & 3, 2010, Caroline Robinson, David Canada along with George Gantz and Tom Palma of Unitil spent 2 full days presenting the original project to the PUC in Concord. The original project was to be placed on the New Firehouse.

March 12, 2010 the town voted in favor of the project with contingences of Unitil's major financial support being approved by the PUC.

June 15, 2010 the PUC rejected the project as Unitil was paying almost 95% of the project.

June 2013 - Stratham Energy Commission reviewed a PPA being offered to Durham in Eversource (PSNH) territory. A similar program did not make sense for Stratham in Unitil territory at that time.

November 2014 - Solar came to the table again under a possible Grant Process. Timing was off.

November 2016 - ReVision Energy approached Stratham asking to put Solar back on the table. An analysis of the Town Hall and the Firehouse was conducted. It was determined that between these two facilities the Firehouse showed the most promise. As part of the early Do Diligence we learned that although the financials looked promising the Firehouse was not optimum at this time due to the age of the roof membrane and putting a ballast mounted Solar System on it would void the 15 year warranty.

December 2016 - we looked at several other Stratham locations for both Roof & Larger Ground mounted arrays. (Cushman Field, Town Garage & Stratham PD)

A major Financial benefit/consideration is derived from "Group Net Zero Metering". This is where Unitil will credit Stratham for what ever excess we produce over what is used at the meter it is connected to. The rate is based on the size of the system with the threshold being at 100kW.

Less than 100kW = Full retail (delivery + supply) excluding demand charges
More than 100kW = Standard Supply Rate Only

Stratham uses aprox. 365,000kWh annually (130FD, 70 PD, 120 Muni, 36DPW)

This brings us to today:

At the January 11, 2017 meeting of the Stratham Energy Commission we reviewed the initial input from both Barrington Power and ReVision Energy for each of the sites. It was determined that while we would support a larger ground mounted system at either the Cushman Property or Town Garage there are questions that still have to be answered and compromises made. We feel it is in the town's best interest to move forward with a smaller (test) project that could move thru the system for early 2017.

At this point we put out an RFP for a 26.5kW roof mounted system at the Police Station. Both of our bidders were very responsive working to get this accomplished in short order.

SEC met last week to review the proposals and determined that ReVision Energy is our vendor of choice at this time.

ReVision also included a separate 46.45kW bid for our review. This was submitted after ReVision's engineers reviewed the project and determined that this size would fit.

It is the recommendation of the SEC that we move forward with 26.5 kW ReVision Energy proposal. We will work with ReVision and all stakeholders to determine if a larger size will work both economically for the town and logistically for the police departments roof spatial requirements. ReVisions has experience with other communities and has offered to assist in providing language for a warrant article should it be needed.

Respectively submitted

Michael J Welty
Stratham Energy Commission, Chairman

Request for Proposal – Solar Photoelectric System Installation for the Town of Stratham NH

1. The Town of Stratham anticipates contracting for a 26.5 KW DC Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System installation on the south facing roof of the Police Station. The contract will be for a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) where the Town will purchase the System at its 6 year anniversary of operation. The Town may decide to buy the system outright. If so, the contract will be modified as needed. This system is planned to be installed during calendar year 2017. The Town is studying the feasibility of additional larger ground mounted system(s) for the future.
2. The Police Station is currently uses 70,000 KWH per year so 100% of the power generated by this system will be used at this site. The Police Station has a backup power generator that must still be able to operate.
3. Your proposal must be for a “turn key” system installation where you are responsible for all state and local requirements, permits and inspections as well as approvals by our utility supplier (Unitil) to set up a Net Metering system where the Town is credited for all power generated by the Solar PV system.
4. Employees and contractors must be licensed in accordance with New Hampshire regulations for Solar installations.
5. You will be granted an easement to access the roof for installation and maintenance recognizing that there may be limits to that access from time to time because the facility is a Police Station. You will also be responsible to provide a structural analysis of the roof (signed by a registered professional engineer) to ensure that there is sufficient load carrying capability. The Town will make any structural modifications as required.
6. You must include maintenance during the 6 year period and warrant that the system is fully operational when it is turned over to the Town. Insurance and a 10 year warranty is also to be included.
7. Federal and State incentives: You have the exclusive right to benefit from all federal and state incentives during the 6 year period of the PPA.
8. Provide pricing for the PPA and your proposed billing process. You may provide pricing options as well. Also provide a cost if the Town decides to buy the system outright.
9. Provide a guaranteed upper limit for the Town’s purchase price at the 6 year anniversary. It is recognized that the actual purchase price must be based on an independent appraisal valid at the time of sale. The upper limit figure you provide may require that you provide a “gift” to the Town of the difference, if any, between the upper limit and the appraised value.
10. Either party has the right to terminate the contract prior to the start of the installation, but not after installation has started.