



BARNSTABLE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT BOARDMAN-POLANDO FIELD

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Barnstable Municipal Airport/Barnstable Fire District/CVEC Solar PV Project FAQ

Barnstable Municipal
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These are frequently asked questions about the solar photovoltaic (PV) project constructed at the Barnstable Municipal Airport. For more information about this project, please contact the town's Energy Coordinator, Richard Elrick, at 508-790-6400, ext. 4932.

Why was the Barnstable Municipal Airport solar project constructed?

It has been the town's long standing policy to reduce its "carbon footprint" and lower energy costs by increasing energy efficiency at town buildings and facilities, and by promoting the development of renewable energy at appropriate locations. Because of the town's membership in the Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative (CVEC), the Town of Barnstable was able to take advantage of a procurement process to build solar arrays at the Airport and five other separate municipal locations across the town. As a result of these "green" projects the town will reduce energy costs and lessen the amount of "green house" gases it emits.

What is CVEC and why is the Town using CVEC for this project?

CVEC is a non-profit membership cooperative created in 2007 to assist towns with the development of renewable energy projects (current CVEC membership: 17 towns, Barnstable and Dukes counties & Cape Light Compact). By providing financing options not otherwise available, and by providing technical and consulting assistance, along with a central contract for purchasing, operations and maintenance, CVEC makes it possible for towns to host renewable energy facilities, that otherwise would not be economically viable.

How is the solar project being financed?

The Airport and the Barnstable Fire District agreed to provide land adjacent to the airport runways to CVEC for 20 years. CVEC, in turn, contracted with the developer to finance, build, own, and operate the solar facility. The Airport and Fire District will pay a fixed price (7.25 cents and 7.10 cents, respectively) per/kWh of solar energy generated (under a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)), and then receive the net metering credits (NMC) (recent NMC average value: 16 cents p/kWh from Eversource/NStar). The Airport and Fire District's monthly revenue will be the difference between the NMC and the fixed price of power for each kWh of electricity generated by the solar array.

Who will own the project and the electricity being generated?

The owner of the Airport project is G & S Solar; the Fire District project owner is: Marina Energy, LLC.

Why is a private partner/developer being included in this project?

The town/Airport and CVEC are including the developer in the deal because the financial incentives available to a private developer, such as federal production tax credits and accelerated depreciation, (which make the project financially viable), are not available to the town or CVEC.

What are net metering credits?

Massachusetts law allows “hosts” of renewable energy projects to sell the excess “green” energy produced back to the utility. Net metering allows customers to receive credits for any electricity that they generate but do not use.

How do town residents benefit from the project?

By reducing electricity costs by over \$590,000 annually, the Airport and Fire District are better able to make more of their budgets available for other important services for residents.

How much money will the Airport and Fire District receive yearly; and will that amount change?

The approximate first year energy cost savings for the Airport and Fire District will be \$596,644. The amount of annual savings could increase each year, depending on whether the cost to purchase electricity from the utility goes up. If the cost of Eversource/NStar’s electricity goes up, then the savings to the town will increase. The total savings over the 20-year term of the contract will be in excess of \$16 million.

How large is the project?

The size of the solar project is 6.669 megawatts (DC). There are 24,640 solar panels arrayed over some 20+ acres of Airport and Fire District property.

How much electricity will be produced?

The expected annual output from the project will be 7,890,031 kilowatt hours (kWhs), enough to power 1,031 average Cape Cod homes. (To view the Airport solar energy production data go to:

<http://minisite.alsoenergy.com/Dashboard/2a5669735066326e47416b4b772b71493d>

<http://minisite.alsoenergy.com/Dashboard//2a5669735066326e4742554b772b71633d>; for the Fire District production go to: <http://minisite.alsoenergy.com/Dashboard//2a5669735066326e4741304b772b71733d>).

Who is responsible for maintaining the system?

The developer/owner will maintain the system; if it’s broken or doesn’t produce the anticipated electricity, the developer’s profits will be reduced. However, under the contract terms 80% of the town’s savings are guaranteed.

Will my personal electric bill decrease as a result of all the CVEC solar projects being constructed?

No, only the electric bills of the CVEC member municipalities will be reduced.

Does the electricity produced by the solar project stay on the Cape?

Essentially yes. The electricity produced by the solar panels will flow directly out onto the grid at an Eversource/NStar interconnection point at an electric utility pole on the street adjacent to the Airport property.

How long will the solar array be on the Airport/Fire District site?

The Agreement calls for the solar panels to be on the Airport/Fire District site for at least 20 years.

What happens after the term of the PPA ends?

The Airport and Fire District will have the options of extending the PPA, having the Developer remove the system, or the Airport and Fire District may purchase their solar system(s) at fair market value.

How many tons of CO2 emissions will be avoided because of the project?

Approximately 5,441 metric tons of CO2 emissions will be offset in the first year of operation by the “green” renewable energy produced by the Airport solar project. This is equivalent to the annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 1,145 passenger vehicles, 1,950 tons of landfill waste, 612,195 gallons of gasoline consumed, or 5,843,801 pounds of coal burned.