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## NEWS : LOCAL Last Updated: Apr 28th, 2006 - 08:25:46

### Ground Breaking of Brockton Solar Energy Park

By  
Apr 28, 2006, 07:46

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Street SPG Solar

The 500-kilowatt (kW) solar photovoltaic (PV) array — or "brightfield" — will be installed in an urban park setting with interpretive displays. The brightfield could include as many as 6,720 solar panels connected in strings that span the site. The brightfield will grow incrementally to 1 MW. ( One megawatt equals one thousand kilowatts. A kilowatt is the electrical energy required to turn on ten 100 watt light bulbs and is equivalent to 1.34 horsepower.) . The Monthly average residential consumption of electricity in the United States in was 866 kilowatt hours. (Source: US DOE)

Brockton Mayor James E. Harrington signed the contract with Global Solar Energy for the company to take the lead on the project. "Brockton is very fortunate to be able to redevelop an idle brownfield into a solar 'Brightfield' that generates emission-free solar energy," Harrington said. "The Global Solar team gave Brockton a compelling and cost-effective proposal, and we are eager to work with them to move the project forward."

Brockton's brightfield provides a number of unique benefits:

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- Installation of 500 kW of photovoltaics, with plans and built-in funding mechanisms to expand to 1 MW.
- An easily accessible ground-mounted PV installation in a park environment provided by attractive landscaping and design.
- Educational benefits highlighted through interpretive displays and cultivated through multiple levels of educational programming.
- Electricity that will avoid the emission of about 595,300 pounds of carbon dioxide, 3,000 pounds of sulfur dioxide, and 1,000 pounds of nitrogen oxide per year.
- An innovative plan for project growth based upon an incentive-based model for REC sales that encourages long-term contracts at an initial premium and tests the market for solar RECs.
- Highly leveraged financing plan that requiring only \$3.00 per Watt in subsidies.
- A replicable model of public-private partnership that includes local, state, and federal support. Bay State Gas Company and others are currently being cultivated.
- Fit within a broader DOE-funded "Million Solar Roofs" partnership program that will add complementary solar installations citywide and increase the overall visibility of the project.

Sources: Renewable Energy Access  
U.S. Department of Energy

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