

Colchester, Vermont Renewable Energy Implementation





Colchester's Solar Strategy

- In May 2014, the Town Energy Committee suggested that the Town enter into a long-term power purchase agreement with a solar energy producer
- Colchester was exploring a power purchase agreement for a wind turbine Aegis Renewable Energy was developing
- The Town decided to develop a direct-ownership option with Aegis as the consultant and developer



- Town offered a list of potential sites, which were then vetted by Aegis and their site engineers
- Discussed location, ANR atlas review, GMP access, town strategies for solar, exposure
- Colchester began a formal relationship with Aegis, and Aegis then put significant effort into developing viable concepts on several sites

- The town bounced three sites back and forth, and for various reasons priorities shifted – this took time
- Aegis was able to get two sites permitted this year
- Ultimately, the Pumpkin Patch site proved viable for the first project
- Utilized municipal leasing to secure funding for constructing the first project outside of a formal bond vote



- Colchester is proceeding with a second project at the Roosevelt Highway site
- A third location is being revisited from previous discussions



- Together, the first and second sites will generate the equivalent of 60% of the electrical consumption of municipal operations



Goal Setting

- Why do you want renewable energy?
- How much do you want for your town? How much capacity do your municipal operations have?
- What options do you have to fulfill your renewable energy objectives?
- What kind of statement do you want to make?
- Solar or Wind?

Feasibility:

- Siting – does the town own a site? Are there suitable sites in town at all? Would a PPA for an external site work better?
- Size of the output = size of the array = size of the site (at a min.)
- Expertise to explore complicated siting or find a partner that can
- Electrical Service
- Neighborhood concerns
- Preferred locations
- Public Input & Board support; Regional Support
- Develop a process to pick a partner – then get started!



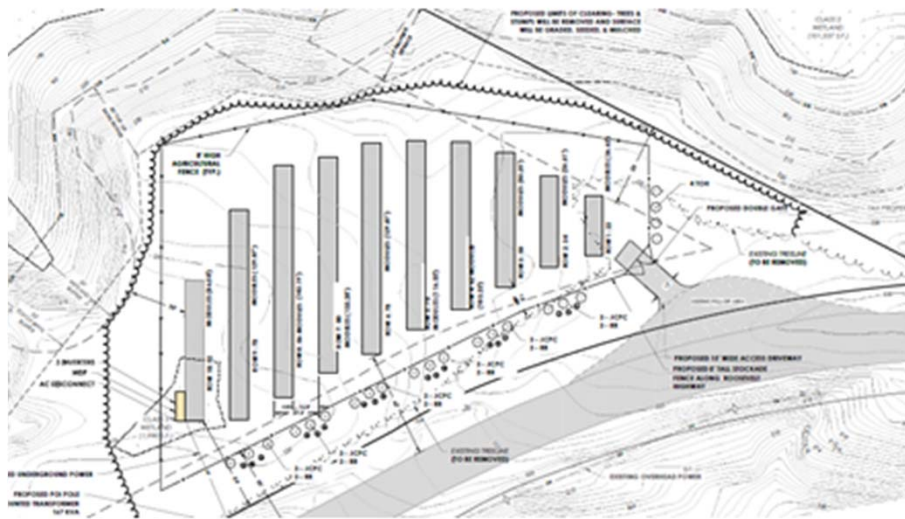
Pumpkin Patch

Ownership: 4.0%; 25 year savings = \$455,699.

Production Year 1 of \$235,983.

15 year lease through MLC

NMCA @ 10%: \$119,498



Roosevelt Hwy

Ownership: 4.4%; 25 year savings of \$494,141

Production year 1 of \$237,734

15 year lease through MLC

NMCA @ 10%: \$120,385