

Oneida County welcomes solar energy in the gateway to the Adirondacks

Located at the gateway to the Adirondacks' Mohawk Valley, it was only natural for Oneida County to turn to the outdoors to enhance its community with renewable energy.



“We wanted to leave no stone unturned when it came to saving taxpayers money. This is a long-term plan with no cost to county government, which will allow us to save money over a 25-year period while making a commitment to a cleaner energy future. We are glad to be a part of it.”
– Anthony J. Picente, Jr.
Oneida County Executive

Solar Initiatives

Support for this project came from Governor Cuomo’s NY-Sun initiative, administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

Project Highlights

- » 5.2-MW direct current (DC) system
- » Approximately \$5.8 million expected savings
- » 17,086 solar modules
- » Enough to power an estimated 1,000 homes annually
- » Approximately 4,268 metric tons of carbon dioxide offset annually
- » The equivalent of taking approximately 900 cars off the road

Oneida County has a long history of putting its natural resources to use for its residents. Home of a watershed that sends waters flowing east to the Mohawk River on its way to the Hudson and west to the Great Lakes, Oneida County was the ideal location for farming communities and the site of the groundbreaking for the Erie Canal in 1817.

As the area and its industry have grown, Oneida County has continued to evolve to meet the needs of its community, most recently with solar energy. Working with a wholly-owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, Oneida entered a 25-year power purchase agreement to have a 17,086-module solar system built on two parcels of land with no upfront cost to the taxpayers.

25 Years of Energy Security

Through its new solar installation, Oneida County:

- » turned two parcels of unused land into a 5.2-megawatt (MW) solar system with no upfront cost to taxpayers;
- » offset electricity costs by putting a 17,086-module solar system to work for the County;
- » is expected to save approximately \$5.8 million over the term of the agreement;
- » is protecting taxpayers from future energy pricing volatility; and
- » created budgetary savings that can be applied to other areas of the County’s development initiatives.

Building on a Commitment to Renewable Energy

Oneida County's solar projects takes advantage of Governor Cuomo’s NY-Sun Initiative, administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), which supplied important financial support and incentives.