

2013 COMMUNITY SOLAR UPDATES

By N. R. Mallery

The Putney Community Solar Garden



The Solar Garden's Grand Opening on August 13, 2013. Pictured are panel owners, staff from SunFarm, Integrated Solar, the Clean Energy Collective and GMP.

The Putney Community Solar Garden went online August 23, 2013. It is Vermont's first community-owned solar garden – a collaborative effort among SunFarm Community Solar, a Putney based solar organizer; the Clean Energy Collective, which handled financing, permitting, and legal matters; and Integrated Solar, a Brattleboro-based firm tasked with array construction.

The 144 kW project includes 576 Hanwha 250-watt photovoltaic panels, 24 Sunny Boy inverters and is mounted on a Schletter FS fixed racking system.

There are 49 Homes and businesses involved. From August 23 to October 24, 2013, the system produced 39,815 kWh of energy and offset approximately 62,000 lbs. of CO₂ during this period.

Expectations

- This solar garden is expected to produce roughly 180,000kWh of clean renewable energy per year.
- The expected payback is between 10.5 and 12 years.
- The system is expected to reduce carbon emissions by 280,000 lbs. per year based on the EPA average of non-baseload electricity generation emissions factor of 7.05×10^{-4} metric tons CO₂/kWh.

Projections

- Projected system lifetime: approximately 35 years
- Projected lifetime output: 7,650,000 kWh
- Projected lifetime reduction in power cost: \$3,950,000

Future

Nick Ziter, owner of SunFarm Community Solar announced, "We're working to develop three more projects of this size over the next year which will serve anyone in GMP territory, including former CVPS customers." The community-owned solar gardens allow individuals, home and business owners, renters and non-profits a chance to own solar panels and receive all the same benefits as those with individual systems.

For more information on the Putney Solar Garden visit www.VTSolarGardens.com, email info@VTSolarGardens.com or call (802) 536-4471.



The Putney, Vermont Community Solar Garden.