



Jasmine Ziter of SunFarm Community Solar

Community solar opening

By NICK ZITER

PUTNEY With the final stages of construction underway, organizers of Vermont's first community owned solar array will be holding an opening event on August 23rd at 5:30pm. The event is open to the public and will consist of a few words by key project organizers, activities, array tours and light refreshments.

The project is a collaborative effort between SunFarm Community Solar, the Clean Energy Collective and Integrated Solar. It will be connected to the grid through Green Mountain Power.

The community solar garden consists of 588 fixed solar collectors which are owned by local individuals and businesses looking to reduce their electricity costs with renewable solar energy.

The community-owned solar model allows anyone who had a bill through GMP before the merger with CVPS to own panels. It is not restricted to Putney residents. Panel owners will receive monthly credit on their GMP utility bill in

the same way as anyone with a home solar array.

Community solar allows many Vermonters who were previously unable to invest in solar the opportunity to do so. Some of these people include renters, those without a site for solar and people who can't afford the high up front cost of a home system.

A single panel in the community array is just \$813. With financing through the Vermont State Employees Credit Union, a typical home could go full solar for little more than the cost of their current utility bill.

Included in the cost of panels is a comprehensive insurance and maintenance package requiring no out of pocket expense after purchase for the 50 year projected lifetime of the panels.

For more information on the opening event or participating in community solar contact SunFarm by phone at 802.536.4471, email at info@vtsolargardens.com or visit their website at www.sunfarmvt.com.



Integrated Solar putting together the final touches.