

Bristol Community College Unveils New England's Largest Solar Parking Canopy

Governor Charlie Baker and leaders from Bristol Community College and its partners unveiled New England's largest solar parking canopy in August 2015, a 3.187 megawatt (MW) solar array on 6 acres of the college's Fall River campus.

The array, built in partnership with the nonprofit energy-buying consortium PowerOptions and its solar partner, SunEdison, will generate more than 60 million kilowatt hours, enough energy to power half the campus' electricity needs and a 20-year savings of more than \$1.75 million.

Project Profile: Bristol Community College

Industry: Colleges and Universities

Location: Fall River, Massachusetts

Area: 6 Acres

System Type: Parking Canopy

System Size: 3.187 MW

Production: 3,631 MWh (Year 1)

Financing: Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)



A Unique Partnership

At an event on the Fall River campus, Governor Baker hailed the array as a unique model for nonprofits and institutions like BCC and a great example of the public, private and nonprofit sectors stepping up to solve complex problems and save money.

The canopy is the latest realization of the PowerOptions Solar Program, unveiled in 2012 and helping nonprofits, government institutions and municipalities enjoy the clean, cost-effective and sustainable energy benefits of solar power.

"Our mission is to help nonprofits navigate the complicated and costly energy market and reinvest any savings of time and money into their missions so this canopy is a measurable win-win for BCC, its students and the entire Commonwealth," said PowerOptions President and CEO Cynthia Arcate.

"We're delighted to be showing off the biggest canopy in the region but the best benefit is in allowing BCC to focus on and reinvest in its core mission."

Immediate Benefits

The college purchases the power from the solar canopy and has no responsibilities for operation and maintenance, which will be performed by SunEdison.

Construction began last fall and continued throughout the winter and spring. In addition to the significant savings, the solar array will provide those parking in the lot with a cover in foul weather.

The canopy will help BCC avoid the creation of more than 1,500 tons of harmful carbon dioxide each year and was done with no upfront costs to the college.

"This solar canopy is the largest of its kind in New England," said SunEdison Managing Director of Eastern USA Distributed Generation Steve Raeder.

"The solar canopy helps Bristol Community College in its mission to become a net zero energy user, while also reducing energy costs and providing shade and shelter for the students and faculty of the college."

SunEdison is a leading provider of solar energy services, serving business, public sector, utility, and residential customers. SunEdison is dedicated to transforming lives by delivering economical, clean, renewable energy to communities around the globe.

What 3.187 MW means for Bristol Community College



More than \$1.75 million in energy savings over 20 years



527 cars off the road each year¹



2,760 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent avoided each year¹



228 home's energy use for one year¹



64,202 tree seedlings grown for 10 years¹

About Bristol Community College

As the leading resource for education and workforce development in southeastern Massachusetts, Bristol Community College provides programs that promote individual opportunity and the region's economic health.

The College has an undergraduate population of 12,514 (unduplicated headcount of credit students for 2013-14) and 19,256 in noncredit enrollments.

Bristol Community College changes the world by changing lives, learner by learner. For more information visit www.bristolcc.edu.

¹Conversions based on first full year of operation kilowatt-hour production using the E.P.A. Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator

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