



CITY WATER LIGHT & POWER CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Douglas A. Brown
Chief Utility Engineer

Springfield, Illinois The newest CWLP power plant in operation is being fueled by the sun. A 250 kW solar installation, representing the utility's first owned renewable generation resource, was commissioned for testing this week. The solar photovoltaic (PV) array, consisting of 716 panels, is located behind Harrison Park subdivision and adjacent to the Sangamon Valley Trail and the utility's Washington Substation at 606 Old Tippecanoe Drive. Mayor Jim Langfelder, City Officials, CWLP staff and project partners representing GRNE Solar and B&B Electric and other community groups were on hand for a dedication and ribbon cutting on Thursday to mark the beginning of the solar farm's operation.

Beyond a new generation resource, the solar farm will provide CWLP customers the opportunity to purchase solar energy for those that want to go green or for customers without the financial means or roof space to install their own solar. A solar subscription program, "mySolar," will launch in early 2019, which will allow CWLP customers to purchase 100 kWh blocks of energy through their bill.

According to Mayor Jim Langfelder this solar project is a way to address the interest in CWLP investing in its own locally-owned renewable energy "While not the largest generation asset at CWLP, adding a solar resource is a good step into the technology for our employees to familiarize themselves with solar operations," he said. "This installation and the mySolar subscription program is a way to educate and engage citizens, too, and determine customer interest in renewables as a balanced generation resource for future energy and jobs."

The CWLP solar farm, with a project cost not to exceed \$437,228, is projected to generate between 339,000 and 373,000 kWh per year or enough to power about 35 homes. The solar farm will offset other carbon-based energy generation.

CWLP Chief Utility Engineer Doug Brown said the solar farm offers access to renewables some customers don't have. "The up-front costs of solar can be cost-prohibitive and some customers may have limited access to solar due to roof space or tree cover," he said. "With this project, we are giving easy access to solar that is generated locally and operated under our public power, customer-owned operation."

GRNE Solar partnered with local labor from B&B Electric to build the solar farm. Construction began November 5th and all work, including safety testing was to be completed December 13th. The ground-mounted PV solar array is south facing to maximize sun exposure for the site.

Gary Hurley, CWLP Energy Services Manager and manager of the project for the utility was pleased with the course of construction and added benefit of the array to the area. "GRNE Solar utilized a low-impact racking system that minimized ground disruption and allowed for a very efficient installation," he said. "The final phase of the project will include seeding the ground around the solar farm with Pollinator plants. These low maintenance plants will enhance ecosystem in and around the solar farm."

Customers wanting more information or wanting to reserve blocks from the upcoming mySolar subscription program, can contact CWLP Energy Services at 789-2070 or nrgxprts@cwlp.com. There will be 3,700 blocks available on a first-come, first-served basis for existing CWLP residential or commercial customers.

CWLP's electric resources encompass an 80-square-mile service territory. For more information about CWLP and its electric division, visit www.cwlp.com.



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To schedule a time to photograph or video the solar installation, contact CWLP Energy Services, 789-2070 or nrgxperts@cwlp.com

Photos available upon request.