

STARКСBORO COMMUNITY SOLAR

- Starksboro decided it wanted to power its municipal buildings and Robinson Elementary School with clean, renewable and affordable energy. Starksboro chose to achieve this goal by creating a solar power purchase agreement.
- A Solar Power Purchase Agreement is a financial arrangement in which a third-party developer [in this case, AllEarth Renewables] owns, operates, and maintains the photovoltaic system, and a host customer [in this case the Town of Starksboro] agrees to site the system on its property. After a predetermined period [in this case 5 years] the host would purchase the system's electric output from the solar provider.
- Starksboro will be siting its 25 AllSun Solar Trackers in a portion of a cornfield that is adjacent to Robinson Elementary and its municipal buildings. Nineteen of the solar trackers will power the school and the other 6 will power the town's municipal buildings.
- Each solar tracker is capable of producing 4 kilowatts, making the project a 100-kilowatt project in total.
- At the end of the 5-year period, Starksboro will have the option of buying the PV system at fair market value, or renewing the power purchase agreement with AllEarth Renewables at its depreciated value (estimated to be 30% of the initial cost).
- This project used Vermont's successful group net metering program, which allows several energy users to group together to use a single renewable energy system.



Outcomes:

- The project will produce 141,000 kWh per year. Over the 25-year life span of the system, it is projected to produce 3.5 million kWh of clean renewable energy.
- It costs Starksboro nothing to install the system, and they have a fixed rate of \$0.19 per kWh for the first 5 years, which is possible because Green Mountain Power pays a \$0.06 premium on solar power.
- In addition, Starksboro will make one cent off of each kWh the system produces, and will get a check at the end of each year for the power produced.
- If Starksboro chooses to buy the system at the end of 5 years for fair market value, it will cost far less than buying a brand new system, pay for itself in less than 13 years, and result in the town paying a highly reduced cost for power.
- AllEarth Renewables will also benefit by receiving the Vermont Business Solar Tax Credit.

Contact: Caleb Elder, Starksboro Energy Committee, calelder@gmail.com, 802-777-0156