



News Release

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City of Lafayette Breaks Ground on New Solar Field at Lafayette Renew

LAFAYETTE, INDIANA – August 16, 2023 – The City of Lafayette held a groundbreaking event for a new solar field at the Lafayette Renew Wastewater Treatment Plant on Wednesday, August 16, at 11:30 am. The event took place at Lafayette Renew, 1700 Wabash Avenue, Lafayette.

The City of Lafayette and Lafayette Renew have made major strides towards resiliency and climate action planning for the community. With the recent installation of a roughly 390 kW DC solar field at the Pearl River Lift Station site, this project aims to further build upon the City's history of sustainable practice by installing an 810 kW DC solar field on the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) property as well as a 220 kW DC solar field at the Ross Road Lift Station (RRLS) within their collection system. Both solar arrays will offset peak and base



electrical demand, thus reducing electrical energy costs for each facility, and resulting in significant annual savings, as well as supporting the City’s overall carbon emission reduction goals as put forth by the Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan.

“Climate change is a reality and cities across the country have been challenged to convert to clean energy,” states Mayor Tony Roswarski. “Having the ability to be a leader in renewable energy by using solar panel installation will serve the residents of Lafayette efficiently and effectively over the coming years by these cost-cutting efforts.”

Reduced Energy Cost

At the WWTP, the installation of a roughly 810 kW DC solar field (1491 solar panels) will offset roughly 22% of the energy used by the WWTP in an average year. This corresponds to an annual savings of 980,633 kWh at the projected utility rates (\$0.1088/kWh) of \$106,693 in year one of the guarantee. Over 20 years, this would result in \$5,123,819 of energy savings, assuming increasing billing rates of 9% annually.

At RRLS, the installation of a roughly 220 kW DC solar field (410 solar panels) will offset roughly 33% of the energy used by the RRLS in an average year. This corresponds to an annual savings of 267,535kWh at the projected utility rates (\$0.1419/kWh) of \$37,963 in year one of the guarantee. Over 20 years, this would result in \$1,823,834 of energy savings, assuming increasing billing rates of 9% annually.

Cost Justification

The Guaranteed Maximum Price for both solar arrays have been estimated at \$3,903,000, not incorporating any eligible direct pay rebates from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The City of Lafayette anticipates a minimum of 30% rebate to be incorporated, with a high likelihood of 40% rebate being incorporated. Assuming a 30% IRA rebate, the total construction cost for both WWTP and RRLS solar arrays is estimated at \$2,732,100, while incorporating a 40% IRA rebate, the total construction cost is reduced to \$2,341,800. The estimated payback period for both solar arrays is approximately 14 years without IRA rebates, however, given the



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City's eligibility for the IRA rebates, the estimated payback period reduces to approximately nine years when accounting for a 40% IRA rebate.

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