

Town of



AMHERST *Massachusetts*

Office of the Town Manager
Town Hall
4 Boltwood Avenue
Amherst, MA 01002

John P. Musante, Town Manager
Phone: (413) 259-3002
Fax: (413)-259-2405
Email: musantej@amherstma.gov

Town and Smart Energy Capital Sign Solar Energy Contract for Old Landfill Move Forward with Other Smart Energy/Blue Wave Projects

For Immediate Release

Contact: John Musante, Town Manager 413-259-3002 or musantej@amherstma.gov

Rob Krugel, Managing Partner, Smart Energy Capital 914-618-4694 or rob@smartenergycapital.com

John DeVillars, Managing Partner, BlueWave Capital 617-470-7297 or jdevillars@bluewave-capital.com

(August 27, 2012)

Today, Amherst Town Manager John Musante and Smart Energy Capital, LLC, the Town's development partner in partnership with BlueWave Capital signed a power purchase agreement for the Town to purchase solar electricity from a site within the borders of the old landfill across the street from the Transfer Station at Belchertown Road in Amherst.

"The Town of Amherst is moving forward to develop solar resources at an ideal site," said Musante. "This agreement will save the Town on its electricity costs and will greatly reduce the carbon impact of the electricity we buy."

The signing follows a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process that resulted in six proposals submitted to the Town from solar project developers from across the country. BlueWave and Smart Energy were selected by the Town Manager and the Town's Energy Committee as the Town's solar project developer last year and since that time have been working with the Town to undertake a lengthy and thorough review of the legal and business terms of the agreement to ensure that the Town's interests are fully met.

Key elements of the agreement include:

- A project size of up to 4.75 MW.
- A 25 year term, with a five year renewal option.
- Town purchases solar electricity from developer at 6.75¢ per kilowatt hour, increasing by 1.5% per year.
- Solar power is fed into the WMECo grid; Town will receive net metering credits that will generate between \$1.8 and \$6.8 million income, depending on market price of electricity.

- The electricity produced over the life of the project will reduce greenhouse gases by up to the equivalent of planting 87,500 trees or taking 8,750 cars off the road.
- The Town retains the right to make necessary repairs to the landfill to ensure it meets all public health and environmental regulatory standards.

“We are very excited to partner with the Town of Amherst to enable it to achieve its sustainability objectives without a capital investment and on optimal economic terms. We commend the Town for its forward-thinking approach in supplying its energy through renewable energy resources. It has been a pleasure to work with the Town and BlueWave Capital and we look forward to continuing our collaboration in order to complete the project,” said Rob Krugel, Managing Partner of Smart Energy Capital, LLC.

“This has been a team effort from day one and it will continue to be a team effort. BlueWave Capital and Smart Energy Capital could not have a better teammate than the Town of Amherst. By working together we will achieve significant reductions in the Town’s electric costs and meaningful reductions in the Town’s carbon footprint. We are proud to be part of the effort,” said John DeVillars, Managing Partner of BlueWave Capital.

The project will now move into the permitting and development phase. The Town, Smart Energy Capital, and BlueWave Capital will jointly seek project review and approval from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Town Zoning Board to site the facility at the closed landfill. They will also seek technical and engineering approval from Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECo) for the system’s connection to the electricity grid.

“I am fully committed to work on the state and local permit process to ensure this system produces the environmental benefits we expect and also preserves the environmental safety of the closed landfill. I will bring Smart Energy Capital, BlueWave Capital, and town staff together to present an open and transparent case for this project,” said Musante.

In addition to the solar facility at the old landfill, the Town has been in negotiations with BlueWave and Smart Energy Capital to buy solar power from other facilities. The combined output of these facilities would meet all the Town’s electricity needs. By splitting its solar electricity purchases across two or more sites, the Town will have some flexibility to reconfigure the landfill solar project, potentially reducing its size and moving some of the panels away from abutting neighbors.

“We will be working with BlueWave and Smart Energy to reach out once again to work with neighbors and other residents of the Town on the design of the landfill project in order to create a project that is both good for the Town as a whole and, at the same time, respectful of the neighborhood interests,” added Musante.

Smart Energy Capital, LLC is a leading solar development and finance company headquartered in White Plains, New York. Smart Energy Capital maintains access to multiple investor funds and has successfully developed and financed more than 65 MWs of solar PV projects over the past 18 months for municipalities, schools, commercial entities, and utilities across the country. BlueWave Capital, LLC is a Boston-based solar development company. BlueWave has been selected by several Massachusetts communities to develop more than 25MW of solar generating facilities on municipal properties, including the Cities of New Bedford, North Adams and Taunton, and the Town of Athol.