



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

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BROOKS UNVEILS NEW SOLAR PANELS AT THE GREATER ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

***Green Energy Initiative will generate clean, renewable energy while cutting costs;
project completed at no cost to local property taxpayers.***

Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks** today announced the completion of a Green Energy Initiative Project at the Greater Rochester International Airport (GRIA). The installation of photovoltaic solar panels on the roof of the terminal building has been completed, and will now provide power from the sun to offset electricity purchased from the municipal grid.

The project includes solar panel installation of two 50,000 watt arrays and is specifically designed for a future expansion, which could approximately double its size. According to Solar Liberty Energy Systems, Inc., the Upstate New York contractor and certified installer who managed the project, the Airport is projected to save \$641,929 over the panels' 25-year lifetime, factoring in energy inflation.

“Continuing the Greater Rochester International Airport’s efforts to stay on the cutting edge of innovation, today we are pleased to announce completion of the Green Energy Initiative Project’s solar panel installation on the roof of the airport terminal,” said **Brooks**. *“We all recognize the positive impact that green initiatives have on our environment, but this project will also provide savings for the Airport through reduced operating costs. Best of all, the purchase and installation of these new solar panels cost absolutely nothing for Monroe County or our hardworking local property taxpayers.”*

As a result of the newly installed panels, GRIA will be reducing its estimated carbon footprint by 68 tons of carbon dioxide per year. This reduction amount is equal to the carbon dioxide emissions from about 7,000 gallons of gasoline consumed, or, inversely, the amount of carbon removed from the atmosphere by 13 acres of pine forest.

“Solar energy systems at public buildings are an especially effective way to demonstrate to the community that solar power is a practical alternative to buying electricity from a utility company,” explained **Adam Rizzo**, President of Solar Liberty Energy Systems, Inc. *“The cost of a solar energy system has gone down, and people are recognizing that having solar panels on your roof can be a mainstream way of reducing energy costs and reducing their environmental impact.”*

The combined systems are expected to generate 94,184 kWh of electricity per year, equivalent to the electricity used to power about fourteen average homes. The system produces no noise, no pollution, no waste, has no moving parts, and requires no fuel.

The project was funded in part with a New York State Energy Research and Development Authority grant (NYSERDA). The remainder was paid for by a renewal and replacement fund through the Monroe County Airport Authority. The project was completed at no cost to local property taxpayers.

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Media Inquiries, contact:

Department of Communications at 753-1080