



State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Contact: Dave White dewhite@esf.edu
Office of Communications 315-470-6645

122 Bray Hall ■ SUNY-ESF ■ 1 Forestry Drive ■ Syracuse, New York 13210

For Immediate Release

ESF GOES GREENER

20 PERCENT OF ESF POWER USAGE NOW FROM ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

(Syracuse, N.Y.) – SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) President Cornelius B. Murphy, Jr., and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority President and CEO Paul D. Tonko today flipped the switch on a 23 kw (kilowatt) photovoltaic array built on the south wall of ESF’s Baker Laboratory as part of a \$29 million rehabilitation project using the latest in green construction practices.

Combined with the photovoltaic (PV) array installed earlier this year on the roof of Walters Hall and the carbonate fuel cell that went to full power this past spring, the new Baker PV system means 20 percent of the college’s electricity needs now come from alternative, renewable energy resources.

President Murphy said, “We at ESF are moving down the path to be carbon neutral. We are making this investment because it is the right thing environmentally for our campus. It also gives us credibility to teach green to our students and encourage the Central New York community to adopt similar practices.”

“None of this would be possible without the encouragement and support of NYSERDA,” Murphy continued.

NYSERDA President Tonko said, “NYSERDA’s commitment to transform the way we produce and consume electricity is following Gov. Spitzer’s leadership and striving to reduce energy consumption by 15 percent by 2015. Our PV and wind incentive programs reduce installation costs by about one-half for residential and commercial systems.”

Tonko also noted that NYSERDA helped fund the installation of the ESF fuel cell combined heat and power system that provides power and supplemental steam to the college and is included as part of the ESF student curriculum.

(more)

“The Baker PV array fits in as part of our development of renewable and sustainable sources of power. It offers us an electrical supply that utilizes the sun. It also provides thermal benefits by reducing our cooling load in the summer because the PV cells were incorporated into the design of the sunshades,” explained Michael Kelleher, director of ESF Renewable Energy Systems.

The PV array at Baker Lab consists of 128 panels manufactured by Sharp (model NT180UI) tilted at an angle of 42°. The array is designed to have a total system production of 23,040 watts (or 23.04 kW). The total estimated installed system cost is \$246,000 and the expected NYSERDA incentive amount is \$115,020.

Both current and historical information on the ESF PV array on the roof of Walters Hall is available at: <http://www.sunviewer.net/portals/SUNY-ESF/>. A similar Web page will be available soon for the Baker Lab array.

Kelleher pointed out that ESF has also significantly upgraded the cooling systems in Illick and Walters halls. Together with the other clean and efficient energy technologies, ESF will save up to \$170,000 annually. These measures also reduce oil consumption by 2,500 hundred barrels a year.

“At ESF, we are passionate about our leadership in the areas of sustainable and renewable energy,” said Murphy, “And that’s why we have also partnered with Congressman James T. Walsh to take this new technology into the community through SUNY SPARE (State University of New York Solar Power as Renewable Energy) offering photovoltaic installer and maintenance training to at-risk youth, unemployed adults and people already employed in the solar power industry.”

Some 114 people have completed SUNY SPARE in the past three years. The next course will be offered October/November 2008. In addition to the regular SUNY SPARE course, ESF has teamed with Onondaga Community College on a SUNY Workforce Training Grant to provide two other training programs next year. Dates will be posted on <http://www.esf.edu/outreach/pd/spare/>.

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