Large scale solar photovoltaic development

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ABSTRACT

Using Solar PV to lower demand on fossil fuel derived electricity is increasingly popular given the downward trend in Photovoltaic system costs. Initial financing for systems large enough to meet a campus or large scale demand is still a significant investment in constrained financial times. Incentive opportunities and alternative financing opportunities are available but what is appropriate for your needs? SUNY Cortland raised these questions in the fall of 2012. This presentation will demonstrate how SUNY Cortland became the first SUNY Campus to secure a long term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for on-site solar power. Presentation will include overview of schedule, general process to evaluate site options, common installation characteristics, financial limitations of incentive approach vs. owning your own solar array, code developments, RFP process, structure of the RFP and PPA, and long term energy projections.

SUNY Cortland capitalized on the New York Sun Initiative and NYSERDA PON 2589 as a starting point. We solicited information publicly and conducted an RFP process to determine the most responsible Solar PV Developer to become an on-site power provider. Obtaining OSC and AG approval became an extended process given that this was the first long-term PPA within the state system. We will focus primarily on outlining the do's and don'ts of that process to guide further Solar PV development within the SUNY system.

BIOGRAPHY

Matthew Brubaker has over 15 years of experience in sustainable design, community building, and place making. Matt is the Campus Energy Manager for SUNY Cortland currently engaged in a number of initiatives from student engagement to energy master planning and measurement and verification programs of various energy efficiency measures. Matt along with many others, is overseeing the implementation of compliance strategies for Executive Order 88, which requires all state agencies to reduce Energy Use Intensity by 20% by 2020 when compared to 2010 baseline year.