

NYPA, Partners Launch Statewide Solar Incentives

A new clean-energy initiative will help lower energy costs for many business, municipal and residential properties statewide as it helps position New York State as a solar industry leader.

The Power Authority, the Municipal Electric Utilities Association (MEUA) and the New York Association of Public Power (NYAPP) have joined in a Solar Incentive Program to encourage residents and businesses to invest in solar photovoltaic systems at half the normal costs.

NYPA is offering an incentive to its municipal and rural cooperative customers for installation of solar systems as large as 10 kilowatts. The Power Authority will pay for about 50 percent of the installed costs. And, customers may be eligible to receive significant state and federal tax credits. NYPA anticipates it can provide funding for



Corning, Sept. 15—Richard Kessel, Power Authority president and CEO, announces partnership with key state electric agencies to lower photovoltaic system installation costs. From left: Tony Modafferri, executive director, Municipal Electric Utilities Association; Tom O'Mara, state assemblyman; Kessel; Hubert Bianco, administrative director of the New York Association of Public Power.

50 to 80 photovoltaic systems statewide under the program.

"The payback period for the system is four to five years," said NYPA President and Chief Executive Officer Richard Kessel at a September press conference in Corning.

The typical upfront cost for a residential customer to convert is between \$50,000 and \$70,000. "The biggest challenge with solar is the upfront costs; we're reducing that," Kessel said. The state has about \$2 million set aside for the program. Customers should apply for funding directly through their utilities, Kessel added.

The program is open to all 51 municipal systems and cooperatives. "The MEUA looks forward to this renewable energy program," said Tony Modafferri, executive director of MEUA. "The MEUA takes pride in the efforts its members have signed onto to reduce their energy usage."

"NYAPP members are enthusiastic about this opportunity and look forward to working with NYPA on this and the development of other energy efficiency initiatives," added Hubert Bianco, administrative director of the NYAPP. ♦

Smart Grid Consortium Named

Gov. David Paterson in late summer announced creation of a New York State Smart Grid Consortium to apply new technologies to lower the cost and strengthen reliability of the Empire State's electricity delivery systems.

NYPA and the Long Island Power Authority will join with the state's investor-owned utilities, the New York Independent System Operator, major universities, government agencies and manufacturers including General Electric and IBM to improve the efficiency of the state's electric system, from generation sources through transmission and distribution networks down to individual customer levels.

"Smart Grids" enable customers to manage energy consumption to reduce usage and costs; improve system operators' ability to detect disturbances, respond quickly and minimize service disruptions; and promote

greater market penetration of renewable power sources.

The consortium's Web site (nyssmart-grid.com) notes that New York offers an abundance of academic, industrial and government resources to ensure Smart Grid leadership. New York is the home of five federal Energy Frontier Research Centers, and both GE and IBM have research facilities in the state.

Long Island is home to Brookhaven National Laboratory, a leading electric power research center. Universities such as Cornell, Columbia, Syracuse and Stony Brook have pioneered over 90 recent or current energy research projects.

This nexus of major energy research facilities, sums up the Web site, "provides the intellectual capital to lead the national development of the Smart Grid." ♦

Israeli Cleantech Comes to New York

At a September U.S.-Israel Cleantech Conference in Manhattan, NYPA President Richard Kessel urged Israeli businesses to consider clean energy joint ventures with New York companies and NYPA.

Conference participants included state government, utility and industry officials, senior representatives of the Government of Israel and some 14 Israeli companies undertaking cutting-edge work in renewable energy. The energy-themed meeting was held to initiate partnerships with New York businesses and state agencies.



From left: Michael Faltisbek and Jerry Kremer of the Long Island law firm of Ruskin Moscou Faltisbek, P.C.; Gil Quimiones, NYPA COO; Richard Kessel, NYPA president & CEO. Kremer moderated the conference.

NYPA and the New York Academy of Sciences co-sponsored the first day of the three-day energy conference. Participants shared information on innovative work in the U.S. and Israel involving solar and wind power, smart grid solutions, energy efficiency and other clean energy technologies.

Commenting on the conference, the *Long Island Business News* reported that, "The message from NYPA and Governor Paterson, who that day signed a memorandum of understanding with Israel, was 'New York is open for business.' This out-of-the-box thinking is exactly what our state needs to improve its image in the business community." ♦



Proudly on display are some of the products of Anchor Glass Container's Elmira plant. On a recent plant tour are, from third left: Richard Kessel, NYPA president, Michael Sopp, Anchor general manager, and Tom O'Mara, state assemblyman, with additional NYPA staff.