

SOLAR ARRAYS BRING OVER \$3.1 MILLION TO SHERMAN COMMUNITY

The development of two community solar arrays located on **land owned by the Village of Sherman** for a 25-year project provides \$3,104,000 to the Sherman community. This is **BEFORE** the discounts on electric bills being negotiated for the residents, businesses, and Village municipality after the interconnection of the constructed arrays; not including the employment of regional contractors on the construction expected to be completed later this fall of 2023; and the maintenance contract with local farmers.

Solar Liberty is the developer of the 4.625MW array owned by SL Sherman LLC and the 5MW array owned SL Sherman II LLC. While the Village owns the land, SL Sherman and SL Sherman II lease the land and own and operate the solar energy system. The O&M – Operation and Maintenance Agreement between the Village and SL Sherman & SL Sherman II involves agrivoltaic practices keeping the land in agricultural production. The selected seed mix is designed for grazing and apiculture (beekeeping), while replenishing and enriching the soil. SL Sherman and SL Sherman II will contract with an area farmer for the maintenance.

This project, including the land purchase, was overseen by the Village of Sherman’s special legal counsel, local legal counsel, fiscal advisors and bond counsel. The exhaustive and thorough environmental review conducted by the engineering firm of Barton & Loguidice includes a strong Decommissioning Plan. The State’s Historic Office of Preservation, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Army Corp of Engineers, among many other agencies have reviewed the project for stormwater prevention and pollution, wetlands, glare, noise, contaminants, agricultural and other impacts before giving approval, consent, or opinions leading to the negative declaration of environmental impact.

The electricity generated is immediately added to the grid. There is **no battery storage**. Therefore, not creating a fire hazard, noise, or other concerns with battery storage. The electricity generated does not directly supply the Village of Sherman. The sub-transmission lines carry the electricity over a loop supplying areas within WNY, including Sherman.

Facts:

- Solar panels do not leak material into the ground.
- Solar panels do not make noise; the transformers have minimal noise; **NO BATTERY storage**.
- Current noise heard is from an old blower at the Sewer Department’s Wastewater Treatment Plant, the noise will end with the start of the new WWTP operations, scheduled for June 5th.
- The **Village’s** acquisition of land **is lawful** under New York State’s Consolidated Laws **for Villages**.
- The Village is **not** in the electricity generating business; the lease relationship with SL Sherman and SL Sherman II provides for the bonding (insurance) of the arrays and their final decommissioning (shut down & removal).

What started as an inquiry to expand existing solar panels to reduce electric utility costs at the WWTP, led to the opportunity to do what is not believed to have been done anywhere else in NY. **The full advantages of the community solar array benefit the PUBLIC**. It’s very exciting to have found a way to creatively provide revenue to defray the increasing costs of supporting essential and substantial infrastructure over a small rural Village with less than 300 residences. The percent to be discounted off electric bills remains to be negotiated and will add considerably more to the benefits for residents and businesses above the rent, PILOT, and HCA. Presently, these alone average over \$124,000/ year injected into the local economy.

PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes – approved by the Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency) provides to:

Sherman Central School	\$17,200 the first year	\$550,900 over 25 years
Chautauqua County	\$ 9,250 the first year	\$296,200 over 25 years
Town of Sherman	\$ 5,735 the first year	\$183,660 over 25 years
Village of Sherman	\$ 1,500 the first year	\$ 48,200 over 25 years

Host Community Agreement

Town of Sherman	\$12,765 the first year	\$408,900 over 25 years
Village of Sherman	\$13,490 the first year	\$432,250 over 25 years

For more information and video of CCIDA meeting summarizing the solar project:

www.shermanny.org under **Government** tab ‘**Village Community Solar**’