



State's largest solar and energy storage system opens in Norwich

Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) and the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (CMEEC), in partnership with SolarCity and Brightfields Development, formally opened the largest solar and energy storage system in Connecticut on August 10, 2016. Congressman Joe Courtney and State Senator Cathy Osten joined representatives from each of the participating organizations at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

"For seven generations, the Stott family operated a successful dairy farm at this very location. It's our hope that this project enjoys the same longevity as we provide thousands of Connecticut residents and businesses with clean and renewable energy for years to come," said Drew Rankin, CEO of CMEEC.

The 4.7 megawatt Mountain Ash Solar Farm includes more than 15,000 solar panels over 15 acres on the former Stott Family Farm. The system is expected to produce enough solar energy over the next two decades to power more than 8,400 homes a year.

The energy storage system installed at the Mountain Ash Farm is SolarCity's first project to utilize its proprietary GridLogic control platform to provide capacity services to a utility. The 750 kilowatt

energy storage system will provide up to 3,000 kilowatt hours of electricity. SolarCity provided the engineering and installation of the battery storage system, and will provide maintenance of the battery storage system, which through the GridLogic program allows CMEEC to remotely and instantaneously dispatch stored solar energy in the event of increased demand or large-scale power outages in its service territory.

NPU will now provide its customers with solar power as part of its current electric service and without an additional charge. When added to NPU's existing hydro power capabilities, the NPU energy portfolio is now nearly 20% renewable.



Mountain Ash Solar Farm located on Stott Avenue in Norwich

Jeff Brining receives Patriot Award

NPU Division Manager Jeff Brining was recently presented with a Patriot Award by Tom Pandolfi, Vice Chair of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). Andrew Shetland, an NPU employee serving in the Connecticut Army National Guard nominated Brining, his immediate supervisor, and NPU for supporting him and his family while deployed.

The Patriot Award reflects the efforts made to support citizen soldiers through a wide range of measures including flexible

schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families, and granting leaves of absence if needed.



Photo, from left to right: Andrew Shetland, Jeff Brining, Tom Pandolfi

Ten Tips...

to get your home ready for a major storm:

1. **Discuss storm safety with your family.** Pick a safe place in your home for household members to gather during a storm.
2. **Clean your yard.** Bring in or secure anything that can be picked up by the wind (bicycles, lawn furniture, etc.)
3. **Make trees and shrubs more wind resistant.** Keep them trimmed and remove dead or damaged branches.
4. **Protect your animals.** Ensure that any outside buildings that house them are protected and secured.
5. **Close doors and windows.** Consider boarding up all windows and doors in the event of a hurricane.
6. **Store water.** If you have a well, be sure to fill containers with water for drinking. Fill your tub so you have water for flushing the toilet.
7. **Turn up the temperature in your refrigerator/freezer.** Turn up to the coldest setting and keep them closed as much as possible so food will last longer in the event of a power outage.
8. **Fill your car's gas tank.**
9. **Learn where the nearest emergency shelter is located.** Plan out the route to the nearest shelter and make plans for your pets to be cared for.
10. **Put together an emergency preparedness kit.** Kit should contain water, food (non-perishable, easy to prepare), flashlights, extra batteries, portable radio, first aid kit, medications (7-day supply) and medical items as necessary, multi-purpose tool, copies of personal documents, especially homeowners insurance policy, cell phone with chargers, family & emergency contact information, extra cash.

Source: www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster-safety-library

A minute with the Mayor:

Jackie Owens is a role model for us all



Deb Hinchey
Mayor of Norwich

At a recent City Council meeting, the City of Norwich formally recognized Jacqueline Owens, a remarkable woman and community leader who has committed so much of her life to the service

of others. She is a woman of strength and grace and someone I have been privileged to call a friend for many years.

Jackie Owens has been a pillar in our community for as long as most people can remember. Earlier this year, she completed thirty years as the president of

the Norwich Branch of the NAACP and has been honored nationally for her work numerous times.

Jackie has given her time and talent as a mentor in the Norwich public school system, given countless presentations and lectures on the history of Civil Rights in our country, while always emphasizing the value and importance of education. She has been the driving force behind a successful anti-bullying campaign in our city and received dozens of awards for community service.

Her commitment to all the children of our community was memorialized when the Norwich Board of Education dedicated the newly renovated auditorium at Kelly Middle School in her name back in 2009.

It was so fitting that the Norwich City

Council recognize Jackie at this particular time because it is now, more than ever, that we need more people like her, who are willing to think, live, care and work for others.

I often think that the pace of day-to-day life over the past few years has sped up dramatically, with so much to do at work and at home, with kids and family. We are often more focused on ourselves that is seems harder and harder to think of others. And this frenetic pace, combined with smart phones and social media, are making all of us both less patient and less compassionate.

In the days ahead, I hope that you will all join me in taking the time every once in a while, and try to be more like Jackie Owens, an ordinary person who has lived an extraordinary life in service to others.

Save when adding attic insulation to your home

Sealing air leaks and adding attic insulation to your home can provide up to 10% savings, or an average of \$200, on your energy bill each year*.

If your home was built before 1980, chances are it may be under-insulated, causing you to waste money on heating and cooling costs.

NPU customers who heat with natural gas or electricity, and/or have a central air cooling system are eligible for a rebate up to \$1.00 per square foot (SF) of professionally installed attic insulation.

To determine your eligibility for NPU's attic insulation rebate program, you must first complete a Home Energy Savings (HES) audit. During your appointment the technicians will check your current insulation levels at no cost to you. Other measures included in the HES are caulking/weatherstripping, wrapping hot water pipes, and installing energy efficient light bulbs.

Energy Star Recommended Attic Insulation Levels for the Northeast	
Current Attic Insulation Levels	Additional R-Value Recommended
Uninsulated	R49 - R60
3-4" of existing insulation	R38 - R49

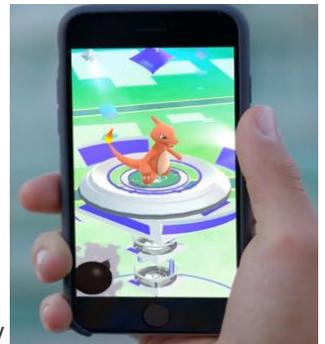
Additionally, installing attic insulation qualifies you for a tax credit of up to \$500. Visit www.energystar.gov for more information on how to apply.

Contact Katie at 860.823.4514 or katiemoors@npumail.com to learn more about this program.

* www.energystar.gov

Pokémon Go players are urged to use caution

NPU is reminding players of the popular Pokémon Go to use caution when playing this game. Utility sites such as power plants, electrical substations, water towers and other utility infrastructure locations are strictly off limits.



The game involves players hunting to "catch" animated characters that are superimposed over a live scene viewed on a smart phone. Players move to various locations in an effort to find new characters.

Parents of children who play this game should talk to them about these restrictions and to always heed all instructions on signs as well as warnings related to electric equipment.

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Visit our website for more information: norwichpublicutilities.com
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