

## **Mount Laurel Township Municipal Utility Authority Half Megawatt Solar Facility Powers-Up.**

Ramblewood Solar Electric Generating facility powers water and sewer facilities, providing both economic and environmental savings for MUA customers.

**Mount Laurel Township, New Jersey, August 17, 2010:** Board Chairman Carl Buck announced that testing is complete and the Mount Laurel Municipal Utilities Authority Solar Electric Generating System is now in full operation. The facility located off Ramblewood Parkway in Mount Laurel will annually generate enough electricity to operate the adjacent potable water well and sanitary sewer pumping station. Electricity costs for these facilities, approximately \$100,000 at the present time, will be eliminated.

Financing for the solar system was obtained through the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust with 50% of the \$3,257,000 construction loan forgiven as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The electrical generation capacity of this facility has also been registered with the NJ Clean Energy Program allowing the Authority to sell solar renewable energy credits (SRECS) based on the amount of energy produced. In combination with the elimination of electricity costs, the ARRA loan forgiveness and SREC program incentives will result in an 8 year payback for the project. The expected life of the solar voltaic system is more than 20 years.

The 2 ½ acre solar facility is comprised of 2,254 solar modules, each rated at 235 watts, and two 260 kilowatt inverters. All electrical generation is electronically monitored on-site and downloaded to a hosted web site for compilation of energy production, diagnostics and maintenance. The solar system is expected to produce 612,647 kilowatt hours of electricity annually. "Development of renewable solar

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energy at this scale is a giant step forward in the Authority mission of providing a sustainable and economical infrastructure,” Buck said.

In the event that additional energy is required, during the night for instance, supplemental electricity is automatically supplied from the public utility electrical grid. During daylight hours, if more solar energy is created than can be used, the excess is automatically directed into the public utility electrical grid for use by their customers. The public electric utility maintains a “net-metering” system on-site that records both the supplemental electricity provided and the excess solar electricity returned to their grid. These amounts are balanced annually.



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