

The Business Perspective



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN CONNECTICUT FROM THE UNITED ILLUMINATING COMPANY

March 2010

Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospital in West Haven to Install Solar Power System



REC Solar, a fast growing California based solar installer, has announced an agreement to build a 197.4kW solar power system on the VA Hospital in West Haven, Connecticut. The project will be completed at the end of spring 2010. The system will be the largest solar power generator built by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in Connecticut. This system is expected to create more than 6 jobs during construction.

"We are pleased and honored to work with the VA Hospitals in their effort to increase the use of renewable energy in achieving their agency-wide goals", said Angelo Laviziano, CEO of REC Solar.

"Today, solar PV technology is competitively-priced for commercial and government applications. It's quick to install, and reliably delivers clean power, particularly during peak demand hours when the electricity rates are the most expensive," added Laviziano.

The project generates approximately 217,140 kWh of electricity per year. Sanyo high efficiency solar panels will be used for these projects. The switch to solar avoids volatile and increasingly high prices for conventional energy sources, while achieving federal policy goals for energy efficiency and renewable energy generation.

The system is expected to save the hospitals well over \$20,000 a year in electricity costs.

Highlights

CONNECTICUT TO RECEIVE 40 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS

QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY TO OPEN MEDICAL SCHOOL

WEBSITE BECOMES ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST PROMISING START UP COMPANIES

Phoenix Press Breaks Ground on Connecticut's First Commercial Wind Turbine

The owners of Phoenix Press, a New Haven, Connecticut printing company, have installed a massive 150-foot wind turbine on the banks of the Quinnipiac river. The turbine resides right outside their facility. The project broke ground on January 21st. The turbine project, which was supported with a grant from the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF), is the largest wind turbine project ever in the state. The turbine provides Phoenix Press with about one-third of the com-

pany's energy needs thus saving them around \$35,000 a year in utility costs. Phoenix Press is the first business in Connecticut to have a Northwind 100-kilowatt wind turbine on site as well as the first commercial printing plant in the nation to have on-site wind power being converted into power to print.



Contact Info

Tom Cariglio

thomas.cariglio@uinet.com

P: 203-499-5931



Connecticut to receive \$40 Million in Federal Funds for High-Speed Rail Line



Connecticut will receive almost all the funds it has requested for the installation of double tracking for a high-speed rail line between New Haven and Springfield, Mass. With the right-of-way already approved, this project is expected to

promote economic development along the corridor, with four or five stations being added to the existing eight. As a result, trains would run every 30 minutes during peak times. With the \$40 million in federal stimulus funds, Connecticut has committed \$26 million toward the project and plans to install 10 miles of double tracks between New Britain and Newington. The state has requested a total of \$64.2 million in stimulus funds for all rail projects, the rest to be split among the following:

- Signal upgrades on Metro North
- Work on Shoreline East
- Additional Track between New Haven

& Milford

“This is a major investment in Connecticut’s future,” said U.S. Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn. “After years of delay, the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield rail line is finally getting the funding it needs to move forward. We’re on track towards better, faster, more reliable rail service connecting our state with New York, Massachusetts and the rest of the region.”

Expansion News

Quinnipiac University to Open Medical School

President John L. Lahey announced at the end of February 2010 that Quinnipiac University is planning to open a \$75 million dollar medical school on their new North Haven campus. The medical school is planned to open in 2013 or 2014. The first class will enroll about 50 students and eventually have 500. Quinnipiac’s medical school will focus on primary care and global health. It will become the third medical school in the state.

Recent Brownfield Project Update

The Connecticut Brownfields Redevelopment Authority (CBRA) recently closed on \$2.3 million in Tax Increment Financing for the North Haven Commons project. The Tax Increment Financing (TIF) program is a tool using future increases in tax revenue to finance current improvements that will create those gains. The developer obtains the benefits of such funding in the form of a grant while the town pledges to CBRA a portion of increased tax revenue as a result of the completed project to pay off the

debt service of the TIF financing. The Brownfield TIF creates funding for projects that may otherwise be unaffordable to municipalities.

An example of a Brownfield project is the North Haven Commons, a development of retail shops, chain stores and restaurants conveniently located off Exit 9 on Interstate 91. The site, once a scrap yard and an auto wrecking and metal reclamation site, had suffered from extensive environmental contamination.

America’s Most Promising Startups

A complaint from a New Haven resident to City Hall to report graffiti in his neighborhood two years ago prompted a 30-year-old web developer and three friends to build a prototype using the Google Maps application in just four hours. SeeClickFix is a website where citizens can flag problems such as graffiti and potholes to authorities. They eventually created a system to set up “watch areas” to alert officials by e-mail every time a new complaint came in. SeeClickFix has three revenue streams: licensing

the tool to media sites, selling advertising, and selling premium accounts to cities that want to use the site for complaint management or to integrate 311 systems. An estimated 50 to 60 cities have adopted SeeClickFix so far, including New Haven.



Contact Info

Tom Cariglio

thomas.cariglio@uinet.com

P: 203-499-5931



FOR MORE INFORMATION LOG ONTO
WWW.CTCENTRALCOAST.COM

