Scorzella, Nancy

From: Jim Duda [jim@duda.tzo.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 09, 2009 10:10 AM
To: JOE VIZARD
Cc: Mayor
Subject: Fernald Reuse Subcommittees - Solar Farm Proposal

Hello Joe,

My name is Jim Duda. I am a resident of Waltham, I reside at 17 Pleasant Street.

I have been following the work that your reuse committee has been doing.

I propose that Waltham consider the development of a Solar Farm at the Fernald site.
I apologize for such a late entry. I was rather surprised that no one else has made such a proposal.

I'm suggesting that Waltham consider building a 2 Megawatt Solar Power system on the site.
This system would require approximately 10 acres of space.
A 2 Megawatt system would require on the order of 9,000 solar panels.
A solar power system of this size will require an investment somewhere in the area of $10 million dollars (very rough estimate).
A 2 Megawatt system is capable of generating around 3 million KW hours of electricity annually.
A system of this size is capable of generating around $300K of annual revenue ($0.10 / KWH) If properly sized, I believe it's possible for the system to pay it's own debt service over the course of 15-20 years (with aggressive rebates).
All power and revenue would be a benefit to the city after 20 years.

Other cities have done similar projects. Local examples are Brockton, Medford, and West Bridgewater.
A simple google search will yield many additional examples.

There are many obvious advantages to a Solar Power Farm
- It's green
- Zero additional traffic
- No noise
- Generates revenue to the City after investment is paid off
- The system could pay it's own debt service (it would have to for viability)
- Very low maintenance
- The time is ripe for Federal and State rebate and tax incentives
- 3rd Party development and partnerships are possible
- Payback increases as electricity rates climb

A solar system could be positioned almost anywhere on the site.
- The only real requirement is that panels can be positioned South facing.
- A secondary requirement is zero shading from trees.
- A solar farm could be positioned on the less desirable land use areas.
- A solar farm could be distributed across 10 acres of disjointed land.

I've installed a 3 KW solar system on my house. I have cut my electricity bill in half.
My system will pay for itself in only 12 years (after rebates and tax incentives).

A 2 MW Solar Farm is by no means a trivial venture, however, I believe it could offer many advantages to the city in the long run. Now is the time to take advantage of federal and state rebate programs.

Best Regards,

Jim Duda
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