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## Largest on-campus solar energy system unveiled

November 8, 2010

- Solar farm expected to save William Paterson University \$4 million over 15 years
- When complete, system will have the potential to generate 3.5 megawatts of clean energy
- Recovery Act-funded HVAC program among many of WPU's green initiatives

Last month, William Paterson University in Wayne, N.J., reached a major green milestone by rolling out America's largest on-campus solar energy farm.

The system is expected to save WPU \$4 million over 15 years and generate up to 20 percent of the school's electricity.

The project – which began in March – is a “great step forward in the green energy revolution,” Rep. Bill Pascrell says in a [press release](#). Pascrell and John Lushetsky, U.S. Department of Energy's solar technologies program manager, attended a ribbon cutting ceremony unveiling the massive system on Oct. 21.

Designed by SunDurance Energy of Edison, the solar energy farm consists of photovoltaic panels scattered throughout the school's parking lots and rooftops. A kiosk will be set up at the new science building so students and faculty can gauge how much energy is produced and saved.

“It's a very visible project that serves as learning tool for students so they can see the magnitude of how solar energy can help the planet,” says Stephen Bolyai, WPU's vice president for administration and finance.

Bolyai praises the workers who installed the solar panels, calling the project “seamless.” “A lot of work needed to be done and it was done with minimal disruption to the university and the students.”

After the project's second phase is complete next year, the system will be capable of supplying 3.5 megawatts of clean energy. Operated by Summit-based Nautilus Solar Energy, WPU will buy power at a reduced rate, slashing the school's annual energy bill.

The savings could provide a financial benefit for students, Bolyai says. “By cost avoidance, we are indirectly keeping tuition down.”

The solar farm is among many recent eco-friendly efforts by WPU including a fleet of electric vehicles, a new recycling program and occupancy sensors for lights.

WPU is also upgrading HVAC controls at campus buildings with support from \$1 million in Recovery Act funds funneled through New Jersey's Board of Public Utilities. The project is expected to be completed in about nine months.



A solar farm at William Paterson University is expected to generate up to 20 percent of the school's electricity. | [Photo courtesy of Energy Blog](#)

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