

Wayland Solar Project: Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is solar right for Wayland?

First, the solar projects will increase Wayland's use of renewable energy to meet our "Green Community" commitment. Second, it will provide back-up solar power for our emergency shelter at the Middle School. Third, it benefits the town financially. We pay nothing to install the systems and the solar arrays produce economic benefits through reduced electricity costs and property taxes, estimated as \$140,000 in year 1 and potentially \$3.3 million over 20 years.

2. How were the four sites selected (Middle School, High School, and Town Building parking lots; DPW Building roof)?

The Energy Committee and Ameresco investigated possible sites on all municipal parcels, excluding conservation land. These four sites were selected based on: potential solar capacity, feasibility and costs of construction, and feedback from town committee and staff. Roofs at other school and town buildings did not have enough solar potential, sufficient structural support, or were as too old for solar arrays. The steepness of the landfill slopes and limited flat areas ruled out this site. The Town's consultant (Peregrine Energy Group) reviewed the proposed four sites and concluded that the technical details are sound.

3. How will the Town benefit financially?

Wayland will transfer the solar power we buy from Ameresco to the utility and receive dollar credits (net metering credits). The credits will be applied to the Town's existing utility bills, producing savings in our energy bills. This approach provides greater savings than using the electricity directly in our buildings. The Town will also receive annual property tax payments from Ameresco on their solar systems.

4. Is there a risk that Wayland could lose money?

There is no reasonable scenario under which the town would lose money. The Town's consultant (Peregrine Energy Group) reviewed the Energy Committee's financial analyses, and concluded that Wayland's 20 years savings should significantly exceed the Town's cost to purchase the power from Ameresco.

5. How was Ameresco selected?

Ameresco was selected under a competitive regional procurement run by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to identify a company that could provide energy efficiency and solar services to 14 towns. Wayland participated in this procurement.

6. Are other towns in Massachusetts installing solar?

Yes, over 100 towns have installed or are installing solar projects, including Sudbury, Acton, Newton, Natick, and Lexington.

7. Will the canopies affect snow plowing operations? Could significant icicles form?

The Town's Director of Public Works is comfortable that the canopy designs will have no significant effect on snow plowing. The canopy design firm reports that icicles have not been a problem in their other projects. Rutgers University installed in 2012 a large canopy system (8x the size of the Wayland canopies) using the same type of canopy; they report no

problems with either snow plowing or icicles.

8. Will there be any additional operating Town expenses?

Town staff (DPW, Facilities, School) has not identified any measurable added operating expenses resulting from the installation of the solar arrays. An Ameresco affiliate will own the solar panels and canopies and will be responsible for all costs associated with operation and maintenance.

9. Is there any added liability for the town?

No. Ameresco will be required to maintain standard commercial insurance, including general liability and workers' compensation.

10. What happens if the Town leases or rebuilds the Town Building?

The parking lot canopies will not affect any interior building renovation. A sale or lease of the building and parking lot could include access to the parking spaces under the canopies.

11. In Year 20 at the end of the power purchase agreement, what happens to the solar arrays and canopies?

At the end of the contract, Ameresco removes the arrays and canopies at their expense and returns the sites to their original respective conditions (normal wear and tear excluded) unless the Town decides it wants to extend the agreement or buy the solar arrays (at fair market value and with a Town Meeting vote). These terms are specified in the agreement the Town will sign with Ameresco.

12. What happens if Ameresco goes out of business during the term of the contract?

There should be no cost impact to the Town. The solar arrays would continue to operate. Ameresco's financing partners for the project would remain involved and would just hire a new operator to handle billing and routine maintenance.