

25 solar arrays for 25 New Hampshire small towns to meet the 2025 Energy goals.

As the chairman of the Bristol Energy committee, I would like to make the public aware that right sized and appropriately funded solar arrays in New Hampshire, provide a practical approach to renewable energy in this state and should be a larger part of the developing 2014 Energy Strategy plan.

Bristol township has placed a 58 panel, 15 kilowatt array, on the 2013 library roof. This array, 1 year old at the end of this July, is on track to produce enough electricity to meet the library's annual power needs of 18 megawatt hours.

Extrapolating from these deployment results, 1 megawatt array's could be deployed by towns in New Hampshire and each produce 1300 megawatt hours per year. This is enough power to supply the municipal power needs in a town of 7000 people. Municipal needs includes in order of demand, Water and sewer, Schools, Fire, Police, Administration, Recreational and Road maintenance facilities.

Each array could be built on less than 3 acres of land at the local water and sewer plants and could be built for less than 4 million dollars.

If 25 of these array were deployed in small towns in New Hampshire, at a cost of less then one hundred million dollars over the next decade, these arrays would produce one half of New Hampshire's 2025 renewable energy goal.

The funding of these array could be funded as portion of the Alternative Compliance Payments paid by the Utilities into the Renewable Energy Fund at the PUC each year. In 2013 these payments amounted to eighteen million dollars and this year are likely to be in excess of twenty million dollars. The ACP fund will escalate each year based on inflation and the rate approved by the state legislature.

Using approximately one third of the New Hampshire ACP funds over the next ten years, would set New Hampshire to achieve 50% of its renewable energy goals from solar (instead of 0.3%), provide no cost or low cost power to 25, financially burdened municipal administrations, and provide both local employment and education to local residents and tradespeople, the skill set of which is then transferable to business and residential deployments or applications.

If more money was allocated from the ACP funds, larger arrays could be deployed for the larger cities, providing financial relief to their municipal electrical power billings and fully achieving the New Hampshire Renewable Energy goals of 25% of energy by 2025.

This is a readily implementable energy strategy for New Hampshire, with all the components in place: sites, labor, technology, materials and funding source, all that is needed is the political will, by the NH Legislation, to implement it as an achievable component of this 2014 Energy Strategy Plan.

William Dowey.

Chairman of Bristol (NH) Energy Committee.