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For Immediate Release – November 15, 2017

Northampton's 3.17MW Solar Array Opens on Former Landfill

Today Mayor David J. Narkewicz announced that the City of Northampton's 3.17MW municipal solar array at the former Glendale Road landfill is now in operation. Officials from Ameresco and the City of Northampton marked the occasion by cutting a ribbon at the new solar array.



In May of 2016, the city entered into a contract with Ameresco to design and build the solar power generation facility on the capped landfill. The contract includes a long-term lease of landfill property on which Ameresco has installed 9,899 solar modules that make up the array. Ameresco will own, operate and maintain the project at no charge to the city, in exchange for a 20-year power purchase agreement with Northampton where the City will pay Ameresco for all of the electricity generated by the array.

The system is expected to generate over 4 million kWh in the first year, which will cover roughly 45% of Northampton's municipal electric use. The city will pay a set 9.77 cents per kWh for 20 years, saving the city over \$8 million for the 76 million kWh of electricity that the array is expected to produce over the 20 year contract.

"The launching of this solar array is a significant step in Northampton's ongoing work to reduce our contribution to climate change," said Mayor Narkewicz. "The annual greenhouse gas emission reduction from this array is equivalent to eliminating electric use of 444 homes or taking 634 passenger vehicles off the road."

"We are proud to work with the city of Northampton on this large-scale solar project located on the city's municipal landfill. The city has been committed to reducing its carbon footprint by supporting clean, solar PV energy and Ameresco is pleased to help achieve this important community goal. Northampton benefits by generating renewable energy on an otherwise unusable landfill site, and receiving long-term energy cost savings." Jim Walker, Vice President, Solar PV, Ameresco.