

To Town of: Bolton Select Board

From: Town Administrator, Donald Lowe

Re: Solar PPA at the Sawyer school leach field

Date: March 10, 2022

In 2021, the Town Administrator met with PowerOptions to discuss potential for solar energy projects within the Town. PowerOptions operates a Solar & Storage program on behalf of its members. Solect Energy is the Solar & Storage provider. Solect and PowerOptions presented a project proposal to develop, install, finance and operate a solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the Sawyer school. The proposal is for a Power Purchase Agreement and Lease for 25 years, and the Town entered a Letter of Intent with Solect for the Project in November of 2021.

### **Procurement**

PowerOptions is the largest energy consortium for non-profits in New England. Bolton is a PowerOptions Member. Members benefit from competitive procurements, which are enabled by M.G.L. Ch. 164 S. 137 and comply with state procurement regulations, and by employing pre-negotiated contract agreements.

### **Project Details**

370kW ground-mounted solar array has been designed and is to be installed atop the Town leach-field, behind the Sawyer School. The solar system has been designed to avoid vents, to meet the structural capacity of the site, and it will leverage an existing underground conduit between the array area to the Sawyer school building to avoid construction in wetlands. The project is estimated to generate approximately 420,000 kWh in the first year, which is about 65% of the total annual use of the School. This renewable resource will offset the equivalent of 7,800 Tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

### **Contract Highlights**

The legal documents for the projects include a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and Lease. These templates were created and negotiated as part of the PowerOptions competitive RFP for the Solar & Storage Program. This has made the review cost effective and speedy for Town Counsel. The key terms include:

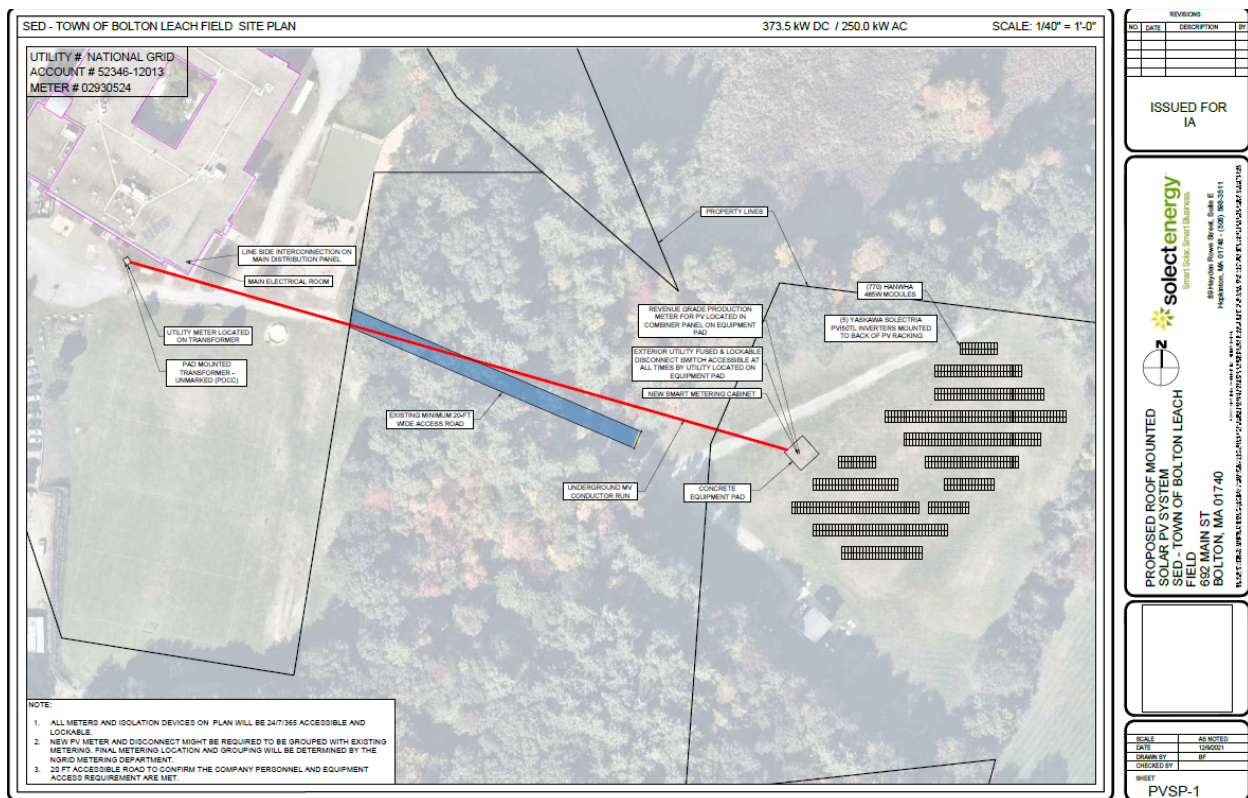
- Solect Energy will provide and pay for the development, equipment procurement, construction, utility interconnection, monitoring, maintenance and operations management.
- The School department / Town will purchase 100% of the solar electricity at a fixed price per kWh for a 25 year term.

- Bolton will have rights to purchase the Project during the term
- The agreement protects the town by offering a production guaranty that will assure Bolton receives the benefits expected throughout the term

## Schedule Estimate

With Selectboard authorization, and Town Meeting approval (May 2), the Superintendent and Town Administrator will sign the agreements. Solect is already working with National Grid on the interconnection and await the utility's approval to construct, which is anticipated for March or April. Solect has performed initial site and racking design. In May or June, Solect will engage the Planning Board for approval, and the goal is to commence construction in July or August. Installation should last 4-6 weeks, with an estimated completion of September 30. Following a technical commissioning, and utility metering, it's estimated the project could achieve commercial operation before the end of 2022.

## SITE PLAN FOR REFERENCE



Thank you for your review of this project opportunity for the Town of Bolton Public Schools.