

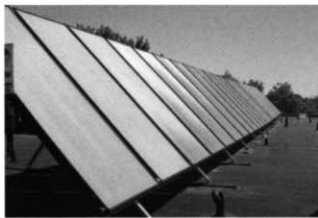
Philadelphia Solar Project Points Way to Job Creation, Energy Cost Savings, More Energy Security if Congress Passes Bi-Partisan American Power Act

Area clean energy business and government leaders literally shouted from the rooftops in northeast Philadelphia to tout a local solar project as an example of how the proposed American Power Act, creating a national policy supporting renewable, American energy would lead to jobs, energy cost savings, and more energy security for Pennsylvania and the nation.



Alan & Jan Rushforth with Alan & Frank Lindy & Carolyn Hirsch at Fountain Gardens

This Solar Hot Water project consists of 24, 4x10-foot solar panels installed by Rushforth Solar, LLC, of Bryn Mawr, Delaware County, on the roof of the Fountain Garden Apartments on Welsh Road in northeast Philadelphia. Company officials believe it is the largest apartment building Solar Hot Water project in the Philadelphia area at over 100 feet long.



"This project supported jobs at our company and for our suppliers, and is substantially cutting energy costs for this large apartment building," said Jan Marie Rushforth of Rushforth Solar. "By harnessing clean renewable energy available right here in Pennsylvania, we also help reduce the money we send abroad to buy fossil fuels."

The American Power Act is a bi-partisan proposal sponsored by U.S. Senators John Kerry/ (D) Massachusetts, Lindsey Graham/(R) South Carolina, and Joe Lieberman/ (I) Connecticut. It would place a gradually declining cap on dangerous carbon emissions by fossil fuel power plants and a few large industrial emitters, though more than 98 percent of U.S. companies would not be regulated. Polluters would pay a price, set by the open market, on the carbon they do emit. This would lead to more use of renewable energy as power plants and other companies reduce their carbon emissions. A portion of the fee polluters pay for carbon emissions would be returned to consumers to help pay their energy costs.

"A large Solar Hot Water system like this saves energy, saves emissions, and is a step in the right direction. Doing a lot more projects like this would spur the economy and be good for the environment;" said Alan Rushforth, President of Rushforth Solar. "The scientists are saying we have no time to lose in weaning ourselves from fossil fuel. No informed person can ignore the damage from dirty coal and oil. Even natural gas involves fracturing and polluting water tables in PA, so all fossil fuels have harmful impacts. This bill would encourage conservation, clean renewable energy, reductions in carbon emissions, and would be a good step in the right direction." The Rushforths noted suppliers, such as Hickory Ridge Radiant, and Weinstein Supply, would see more demand from solar installers which could lead to more local hiring.

Alan Lindy, Lindy Property Management said: "I found Jan Marie and Alan Rushforth to be exceptionally professional, thorough and a pleasure to work with. I am already registered for our next community, a 100 apartments in South Philadelphia, part of the larger Gateway Tower community. For both Fountain Gardens and for Gateway Towers, I am projecting a savings of 50% of our gas consumption to heat hot water and a payback period before 6-8 years, maybe less."

Fountain Gardens apartment complex is projected to save approximately \$12,613 per year to heat water in the building with the solar system and high efficiency heaters. The cost of the installation totaled \$115,500. Federal subsidies covered 30 percent of the solar cost, or \$32,550; a Pennsylvania Sunshine Program subsidy paid another \$20,000; and a Sustainable Development Fund subsidy funded \$3,850. This brought the actual cost to the business to \$59,100. With the projected energy cost savings, this project should pay for itself in just 5.1 years. Even without subsidies, the payback time would have been 9.3 years. The lower operating costs also will increase the building's property value by an estimated \$168,000.



"Lindy Properties deserves acknowledgement for being a green leader in their field. With the implementation of the American Power Act, we would expect to see more such projects to become more prevalent and main stream" said Jan Rushforth. "It would mean more jobs locally, help businesses and homeowners lower their energy costs, and help Americans take control of our energy future, by keeping more of our energy dollars at home. In a world where we mourn the fallen Coal Miners in West Virginia and face 5,000 barrels of oil per day still gushing into the Gulf of Mexico, it's comforting to promote clean green Solar Hot Water."



Guests assemble on the rooftop at Fountain Gardens for the presentation

Energy Institute of America figures show Pennsylvanians spend about \$10 billion a year on foreign energy. Rushforth Solar called on Pennsylvania senators Arlen Specter and Robert Casey, Jr., to support the American Power Act, and urged Senate leaders to bring the bill before the full Senate as quickly as possible.