



Managing Your Solar: A Planning Checklist for Municipalities

Metropolitan Area Planning Council, September 30 2015



Franklin Beach Energy
Asset Advisory

Overview: Municipal Solar Management

Over the past 10 years, many municipalities have taken advantage of the savings from municipal solar energy systems by building grant-funded systems that they own and operate.

What are all the things you need to put in place to integrate these systems into your other municipal operations? The goal of this webinar is to develop a concrete management plan for your municipality, to make sure you get the most out of your solar.

- ▶ What is the list of things you have to manage?
- ▶ What does it cost?
- ▶ Who are you doing business with?



Franklin Beach Energy
Asset Advisory

Presenters

- ▶ **Martha Grover, Energy Efficiency Manager, City of Melrose**
mgrover@cityofmelrose.org
- ▶ **Carter Wall, Managing Director Franklin Beach Energy**
cwall@franklinbeachenergy.com



Franklin Beach Energy
Asset Advisory

Solar Management Overview

These are the key management areas that we'll be talking about today, and how to begin developing a plan for each one:

- ▶ Maintenance
- ▶ Data Acquisition System (DAS)
- ▶ Sale of RECs
- ▶ Capital budget



Franklin Beach Energy
Asset Advisory

Solar Maintenance

Maintenance contracts are for annual preventive maintenance, and repairs when needed. Your contractor might also monitor your system from day to day to make sure it's working.

- ▶ Do you have a maintenance contract? Who's issuing the RFP and selecting a vendor? Whose budget is it coming out of?
- ▶ Monitoring: Who's keeping an eye on the systems to make sure they're working?
- ▶ Service calls/repairs: Who's calling the vendor? Who is the facilities contact at each building?



Franklin Beach Energy
Asset Advisory

Solar Data and Communications

Data Acquisition System (DAS) is a service that every system has, to collect and communicate data. It is necessary for

- 1) knowing whether your system is operating, and
- 2) reporting power production so you can get RECs.

- ▶ Who provides this service and what do they do?
- ▶ When does my contract expire and who is responsible for renewing it?
- ▶ How does the system communicate and who's responsible for it?



Franklin Beach Energy
Asset Advisory

Solar Revenues

Apart from the environmental benefits, there are two main sources of value from your solar: electricity savings and Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). Power production is reported to NEPOOL, which creates the RECs and they are sold to power suppliers.

- ▶ Who sells the RECs for the town? Who is responsible for managing this contract for the town?
- ▶ Where do the revenues go?



Solar Contracting and Budgeting

- ▶ Data Acquisition System (DAS): contracts are typically multiple-year
- ▶ Maintenance Contract
- ▶ Sale of RECs
- ▶ Capital budget



Franklin Beach Energy
Asset Advisory

Finding Solar Vendors

- ▶ DAS
- ▶ Maintenance
- ▶ REC sales



Franklin Beach Energy
Asset Advisory

Next Steps

- ▶ Work with your team to fill in the checklist – this will help you identify gaps in your management plan, give everyone a list of “to do”s, and give you documentation for the next time you need to renew a contract.
- ▶ Yearly solar management team meeting

Resources

- ▶ Solar Management Checklist (circulated via e-mail)
- ▶ MAPC
- ▶ Owner's Agents
- ▶ DOER Green Communities staff
- ▶ DOER list of aggregators ([link](#))
- ▶ DOER list of independent verifiers ([link](#))

Q&A

- ▶ Martha Grover, Energy Efficiency Manager, City of Melrose
mgrover@cityofmelrose.org
- ▶ Carter Wall, Managing Director Franklin Beach Energy
cwall@franklinbeachenergy.com
- ▶ Ani Krishnan, Energy Planner, MAPC
akrishnan@mapc.org



Franklin Beach Energy
Asset Advisory
