

# **Bristol Community College *NEWS***

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## **FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT**

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### **GOVERNOR, TOP LEADERS UNVEIL NEW ENGLAND'S LARGEST SOLAR PARKING CANOPY AT BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

#### ***Partnership with PowerOptions, SunEdison Puts Parking Lot on Double Duty***

**Fall River, Mass. August 14, 2015**— Governor Charlie Baker and leaders from Bristol Community College (BCC) and its partners today unveiled New England's largest solar parking canopy, a 3.2 megawatt solar array covering 800-parking spaces on five acres of the College's Fall River Campus.

The array, built in partnership with the nonprofit energy-buying consortium PowerOptions and SunEdison, will generate more than 34 million kilowatt hours of energy each year, enough energy to power half of the campus' electricity needs and will generate a 20-year savings of more than \$1.75 million. The solar parking canopy avoids the emission of more than 1,500 tons of carbon dioxide each year, which is the same as removing approximately 5,000 cars from the road.

“Clean energy technology in Massachusetts is thriving, spurred by the Commonwealth's innovative spirit, vibrant technology industry, strong public-private partnerships and world class academic institutions,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “Initiatives like the solar canopy at Bristol Community College both leverage opportunities at state facilities, and position the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while protecting the environment and moving towards our administration's solar goal of 1,600 megawatts at homes, businesses, municipalities, and state agencies by 2020.”

“Bristol Community College is committed to sustainable energy and lessening our impact on the planet,” said John J. Sbrega, Ph.D., President of Bristol Community College. “This public-private collaboration is a model for energy generation and usage, and Bristol Community College is taking a leading role in finding solutions to address the enormous power needs of modern higher education.”

The solar canopy will supply power for the entire Fall River Campus, and is slated to be a major part of the Zero Net Energy plans for the John J. Sbrega Health and Science Building currently under construction. The building will house health sciences programs and life sciences

laboratory learning spaces, which are notoriously huge energy consumers. The solar canopy, coupled with design choices for passive solar in the building itself and installation of geothermal wells, will help the College achieve this Zero Net Energy goal for the building.

For a 3:50 video showing the project and its scale and placement on the Fall River Campus, watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h zavFQa SsvQ>.

The joint projects have already garnered national attention for the innovative approach to renewable energy, including the Leading by Example award from the Commonwealth, Bellwether Finalist Award, and the Innovation award from the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO). It has also been the subject of articles in many trade publications.

The canopy is the latest realization of the PowerOptions Solar Program, unveiled in 2012, to help nonprofits, government institutions, and municipalities enjoy the clean, cost-effective, and sustainable energy benefits of solar power.

“Our mission is to help state agencies and nonprofits navigate the complicated and costly energy market and reinvest any savings of time and money into their missions, so this canopy is a measurable win-win for BCC, its students and the entire Commonwealth,” said PowerOptions President and CEO Cynthia Arcate. “We’re delighted to be showing off the biggest canopy in the region but the best benefit is in allowing BCC to focus on and reinvest in its core mission.”

“A SunEdison solar parking canopy system of this size and scale is the perfect fit for Bristol Community College’s renewable energy needs,” said Steve Raeder, SunEdison managing director of commercial and industrial for the Eastern U.S. “Colleges, municipalities and other facilities with large parking areas can also benefit from the innovative SunEdison solar parking canopy system, which provides shade and shelter in addition to generating cost effective, clean solar energy. With solar projects like this, made possible by the governor’s forethought and effective renewable energy policies, the Commonwealth is well on its way to reaching its renewable energy goals.”

The College has signed a power purchase agreement with SunEdison to buy the power from the solar canopy for a guaranteed price over the next 20 years. Operation and maintenance of the solar canopy system will be performed by SunEdison. (TerraForm Power, Inc., a global owner and operator of clean energy power plants has acquired the solar project from SunEdison. This project was on the Call Right Projects List.)

Construction of the canopy began last fall and continued throughout the winter and spring. In addition to the significant savings, the solar array will provide those parking in the lots with a cover in foul weather.

### **About Bristol Community College**

As the leading resource for education and workforce development in southeastern Massachusetts, Bristol Community College provides programs that promote individual opportunity and the

region's economic health. The College has an undergraduate population of 12,514 (unduplicated headcount of credit students for 2013-14) and 19,256 in noncredit enrollments. Bristol Community College changes the world, learner by learner. For more information visit [www.bristolcc.edu](http://www.bristolcc.edu).

### **About PowerOptions**

PowerOptions® is the largest energy buying consortium in Massachusetts, serving more than 500 nonprofit organizations and governmental entities with combined annual energy sales of roughly \$200 million. With supply offerings for electricity, natural gas, and solar power, PowerOptions provides its members budget certainty and savings, as well as best-in-industry consumer protections. Joining is easy—any nonprofit or public institution in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island may become a member and participate in this collective purchasing effort. For more information, visit [www.poweroptions.org](http://www.poweroptions.org).

### **About SunEdison**

SunEdison is the world's largest renewable energy development company and is transforming the way energy is generated, distributed, and owned around the globe. The company develops, finances, installs, owns, and operates renewable power plants, delivering predictably priced electricity to its residential, commercial, government, and utility customers. SunEdison is one of the world's largest renewable energy asset managers and provides customers with asset management, operations and maintenance, monitoring and reporting services. Corporate headquarters are in the United States with additional offices and technology manufacturing around the world. SunEdison's common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "SUNE." To learn more visit [www.sunedison.com](http://www.sunedison.com).

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