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LIPA Presents Commack School District with Solar Rebate over \$600,000

PV systems will save district over \$47,000 annually

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Uniondale, NY—Continuing their commitment to helping schools go green, protect the environment and reduce energy bills, the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) has partnered with the Commack School District to upgrade its facilities with four photovoltaic (PV) systems. LIPA Chief Operating Officer Michael D. Hervey presented the school district with a rebate check of over \$600,000 for participating in LIPA's Solar Entrepreneur Program.

"This project will serve as an invaluable learning tool for the students at Commack, so they can experience first hand the economic and environmental benefits of clean renewable energy," said LIPA Chief Operating Officer Michael D. Hervey. "Moreover, every dollar saved by the district with these solar panels is a dollar that can be spent on a child's education or a dollar of property taxes that doesn't have to be raised."

The four solar electric generating photovoltaic (PV) systems total 200.84 kilowatts (kW) and will produce a total of approximately 254,090 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity annually. This will save the Commack School District and its taxpayers approximately \$47,004 in electricity costs per year.

"It is exciting to be part of an effort that not only saves the taxpayers of the Commack School District dollars but also helps to lessen our county's dependence on fossil fuels by taking advantage of nature's renewable energy source. As educators we always try to "think globally" when it comes to our environment, installing solar panels on four of our building gives us the opportunity to "act locally". The generous rebates provided by the Long Island Power Authority was a huge bonus which helped move this project forward," said Kevin Carpenter, Operations of Facilities Administrator for Commack Schools.

The PV systems will also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. By using solar power in contrast to fossil fuels to generate electricity, the avoided emissions over a 20-year period will be approximately 4 tons of Sulfur Dioxide, 2.6 tons of Nitrous Oxide, and 2,607 tons of Carbon Dioxide. This is the equivalent of removing 434 passenger cars from the road.

By participating in LIPA's Solar Entrepreneur Program, the school district received a \$601,400 rebate, which will help offset the capital costs for the four PV systems. The systems are located at Commack High School, Commack Middle School, Sawmill Intermediate School, and Burr Intermediate School, each of which now hosts an approximate 50 kW system.



From Left to Right: Kevin Carpenter, Operations of Facilities Administrator for Commack Schools; Joseph Pennacchio, Board of Education (BOE) Vice President; Jeffrey Egan, BOE Trustee; Mike Hervey, LIPA Chief Operating Officer; MaryJo Masciello, BOE President; Deborah Guber, BOE Trustee; Dr. Donald James, Superintendent of Schools

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LIPA, a non-profit municipal electric provider, owns the retail electric Transmission and Distribution System on Long Island and provides electric service to more than 1.1 million customers in Nassau and Suffolk counties and the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens. LIPA is the 2nd largest municipal electric utility in the nation in terms of electric revenues, 3rd largest in terms of customers served and the 7th largest in terms of electricity delivered. In 2008, LIPA outperformed all other overhead electric utilities in New York State for frequency of service interruptions, and ranked second for duration of service interruptions. LIPA does not provide natural gas service or own any on-island generating assets. More information about LIPA can be found online at: <http://www.lipower.org>.

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