



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES
John C. Egan, COMMISSIONER

Heather Groll - Public Affairs Office
(518) 474-5987
heather.groll@ogs.state.ny.us
<http://www.ogs.state.ny.us>

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**Solar Heating Project at Walkill Correctional Facility
Named Best Solar Project of the Year**
Office of General Services Project Sunshine turns sunlight into hot water

New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner, John C. Egan and Brian Fischer, Commissioner of the Department of Correctional Services today announced the OGS "Project Sunshine" pilot project installation at Walkill Correctional Facility was honored as the *Best New York State Government Solar Project* of the year by the NYS Solar Energy Industries Association at their annual conference in Albany. The innovative project harnesses the power of the sun to improve energy efficiency and supply hot water to the 608-bed, medium security men's correctional facility located in Ulster County.

"This award affirms the dedication of OGS staff who take their role as the environmental stewards of the state's design and construction projects very seriously," Commissioner Egan said. "Governor Paterson has asked OGS to champion projects that contribute to sustainability and reduce costs for the state. This project does both. Not only does the use of solar energy lessen our reliance on fossil fuels, it also saves taxpayer dollars at the same time.

"I see this as one of many opportunities to include solar energy as part of our conservation efforts in state run facilities," Commissioner Egan added. "Based on this pilot's performance, Project Sunshine's aim is to replicate it on college campuses, in hospitals, and at other state facilities. We intend to use the statewide presence, client base, and procurement power of OGS to promote installations of both solar thermal and photovoltaic panels all over the state."

"This award is not only gratifying to the Department of Correctional Services but should serve as an eye-opener to the public about the potential for energy efficiency in the prison system," Commissioner Fischer said. "We are already making strides to save taxpayers money while reducing pollution and our dependence on foreign oil. Besides Project Sunshine, which we hope to replicate at more of our 68 correctional institutions across the State, we have achieved the U.S. Green Building Council's highest energy efficiency rating in the American correctional community for our newest building, the Residential Mental Health Unit at Marcy Correctional Facility in Oneida County. We expect to achieve a similar rating for a second such unit now under construction at Five Points Correctional Facility in Seneca County. We have expanded the number of certified cleaning products manufactured by our Correctional Industries program and used by us and other government agencies, and we plan to begin teaching inmates green job skills as part of their programming. Working with Commissioner Egan and the Office of General Services, we hope to continue making the State prison system a forward-looking and responsible partner in the effort to improve the stewardship of our environment."

Richard M. Kessel, president and chief executive officer of the New York Power Authority, said: "NYPA is proud to partner with the Office of General Services to advance clean energy technology at

state facilities and we welcome this opportunity with the Department of Correction Services. This project shines the light on the growing popularity of solar thermal technology as a means to reduce energy costs and dependence on fossil fuels and to improve opportunities to support the emergent solar industry and the clean energy jobs associated with it.”

The program is a pilot demonstration of solar technology jointly developed by the New York State Office of General Services, the Department of Correctional Services, and the New York Power Authority. The \$ 343,000 project, which employed 20 people, was funded in part by a \$270,000 Renewable Energy Program grant from the New York Power Authority and is expected to continue saving energy dollars for over 15 years beyond its payback.

The Wallkill CF Solar Thermal Pilot Project became operational in January 2010 and utilizes evacuated tube technology to capture heat for domestic hot water for showers, laundries and kitchens at the facility. It is the largest solar thermal installation of its kind in the Eastern United States. On average, the system will reduce hot water costs by 10 percent overall. However, for hot water that is used during the solar day (the part of the day when the sun is out), the system will reduce costs by nearly 40%. Additionally, this *Project Sunshine* installation will avoid the production of 62 tons of CO2 annually.

The New York Solar Energy Industries Association, founded in 1994, is the only statewide non-profit membership and trade association dedicated solely to advancing solar energy use in New York State. For information, visit <http://www.nyseia.org>.

OGS provides a broad range of core services that facilitate the operations of state and local governments in areas such as: property management, design and construction, procurement and essential support services.

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