



Dept. of Solid Waste & Sanitation
PO Box 27, Wampsville, NY 13163
SHARON A. DRISCOLL,
Recycling Coordinator/Media Director
Phone: 315/361-8408
sharon.driscoll@madisoncounty.ny.gov

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Excitement abounds at the Madison County Landfill --

The use of excess heat from the County's Gas-to-Energy facility will be used in Johnson Brothers Lumber, soon to be constructed; drying kilns at the Buyea Rd. Landfill site and the newly installed 210 panel solar array will provide all of the power necessary to run the landfill's operations building.

A Ground Breaking and Press Conference for Johnson Brothers Lumber's new drying kilns and to "throw the switch" for the new 210 panel solar array, implemented and installed by Solar Liberty of Buffalo, NY via a power purchase agreement (PPA) will take place at 11:00 a.m. Friday, December 12, 2014 on the lawn in front of the ARC Recycling Center, 6663 Buyea Rd. in the Town of Lincoln.

Johnson Brothers Lumber is the first business to take advantage of the excess heat produced by the Gas-to-Energy Facility, owned and operated by Waste Management Inc., and located at the Buyea Rd. Landfill site.

This family run business, located in Cazenovia, NY, was established by brothers William and Victor Johnson in 1937. Located in Central New York, Johnson Brothers Lumber has access to some of the finest growing hardwoods found in the world, according to President Paul D. Johnson who took over the company in 1983.

Johnson Brothers recently expanded their mill and having the ability to purchase low cost land from Madison County and make use of free excess heat to dry their lumber. Johnson Brothers Lumber will be providing jobs for area residents and the property they are purchasing will be put back on the tax rolls.

"This is a win-win situation for both the Lumber Company and Madison County, said Director James Zecca.

The second phase of the Johnson Brothers project is to use the moist excess heat from their drying kilns to heat a greenhouse at the Buyea Rd site.

The solar array, recently installed by Solar Liberty of Buffalo, NY will produce 50kW of power from the photovoltaic installation and will take care of 100 percent of the electrical needs for the Landfill's Operations Building.

The power purchase agreement between Madison County and Solar Liberty is for 15 years. The County will pay .05 cents per kilowatt hour guaranteed for the life of the contract. Solar Liberty provided and installed all of the solar panels and will maintain the array.

Founded in 2003, Solar Liberty installs grid-tied photovoltaic solar energy systems for government, nonprofit, education, commercial, and residential customers. Since then, they've installed solar panels systems for scores of New York state businesses, schools, municipal buildings, non-profits and homeowners. In 2012 NYSERDA and the Department of Energy awarded the "Outstanding Achievement Award" to Solar Liberty for being the Largest Solar Electric Installer in New York State. Visit solarliberty.com for more information.

"We want to thank Jim Zecca and the Madison County team for this exciting project. Madison County is leading the way in New York State by transforming landfills into active energy producing sites." said Adam K. Rizzo, President and CEO of Solar Liberty.

Director James Zecca said, "Our department and the Solid Waste Committee continue to find alternative sources of energy for our operation. This is another step toward that goal."

Those expected to attend the Ground Breaking and Press Conference are: Director James A. Zecca, members of the Madison County Board of Supervisors, including Chairman John Becker and James Goldstein, chairman of the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee. Also expected are: Senator David Valesky, Mike Johnson, General Manager of Johnson Brothers Lumber, Adam K. Rizzo, President and CEO of Solar Liberty and Kipp Hicks, Director of the Madison County Industrial Development Agency.

