

# Borrego Solar and Greenwood Energy Announce Completion of Ithaca College Solar Array

The 2.9 megawatt off-site solar energy project will meet 10 percent of college's electricity needs



Ithaca College solar array

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Financier [Greenwood Energy](#) and installer [Borrego Solar Systems](#) today announce the completion of a 2.9 megawatt (MW) remote-net-metered solar array for [Ithaca College](#). Borrego Solar co-developed, designed and built the array while Greenwood Energy will own and operate it.

The [solar farm](#) will generate an estimated 3.5 million kilowatt-hours of electricity in its first year, which will provide roughly 10 percent of the campus' electricity needs. This amount is equal to powering the Gannett Center, Dillingham Center and Williams Hall academic buildings, along with the Emerson residence Hall.

"I offer my thanks to our public and private partners for helping us make this project a reality," said Ithaca College President Tom Rochon. "Its conception, commencement and completion serves as testament to the commitment Ithaca College has made to sustainability not just in theory, but in action."

Located approximately 40 miles from campus on 15 acres of land in the Ontario County Town of Seneca, the solar array is one of the largest for a higher education institution in New York State. It will offset nearly 900 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents annually, which corresponds to taking about 190 cars off the road or the amount of carbon sequestered by 727 acres of mature U.S. forests each year.

[The project](#) is financed through a Power Purchase Agreement, which covered all upfront costs and allows the college to purchase the solar energy produced from the owner, Greenwood Energy, at a set price over the 25-year term of the agreement through remote net energy metering (RNEM). Ithaca's project is the recipient of a \$1.6 million New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) grant.

“Greenwood Energy is proud of making this private-public partnership a reality. An exciting outcome thanks to a concerted effort of multiple parties from policy all the way to project construction. We can only hope for more,” said Camilo Patrignani, Greenwood Energy CEO.

The NY-SUN initiative is making it possible for all New Yorkers to invest in solar energy by providing financial incentives and solar-friendly utility programs. One key program utilized for [Ithaca College’s installation](#) is RNEM, which allows for entities to install solar at an off-site location and receive credits for the energy fed onto the grid. Thanks to RNEM, the installation will save Ithaca College an estimated \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually, depending on the future price of electricity.

“By enacting virtual net metering two years ago, New York regulators opened up solar to entities across New York that didn’t have land available on-site to make it a reality,” said Rob Garrity, Borrego Solar project developer. “The program also launched the growth of a thriving solar market that continues to receive support and attention from the Governor’s office.”

The primary purpose of the array is to help reduce the college’s reliance on fossil fuels, and to move forward on its Climate Action Plan that was adopted in 2009. That plan called for the college to attain carbon neutrality by the year 2050. This is one of several programmatic activities the college has implemented in recent years as it moves forward with both on- and off-campus initiatives to reduce its carbon footprint. For more information on Ithaca College’s green initiatives, visit <http://www.ithaca.edu/sustainability>.

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