

altPOWER installs New York's first Solar Powered Co-op apartment building

Friday, January 25, 2008

altPOWER Inc has successfully completed the installation of a 50 kW Photovoltaic array on top of Cabrini Terrace, a 217 unit apartment building in northern Manhattan. The project came to fruition in 2007 with the initiation of the Multi-Family Performance Program, available through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), that the dream became a reality. Cabrini was able to receive capital from incentives made available by NYSERDA and State tax credits but needed more capital in order to continue with the project. One of the major barriers for co-ops and condos converting to solar power is their high capital cost – the up front price for materials and installation. Up until this past year, New York State offered tax credits that benefited single family dwellings but not large private cooperatives and condos.

Last March, board members of Cabrini Terrace informed their local Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell and state Senator Dean Skelos that people who owned co-op apartments should be eligible for the same credits and incentives that are available to people who live in single family houses. Farrell and Skelos agreed. Legislation was unanimously passed by both houses and signed by Governor Spitzer on July 3, 2007.



The system consists of 266 Evergreen Panels and one 3-phase Xantrex PV45-208 DC to AC inverter (4,500 W AC at 208 V AC). The inverter is wired in 19 strings of 14 PowerGuard / Evergreen Solar 190 Watt DC Photovoltaic modules. The panels, located on the roof of the building's garage, will generate 50 kW of electricity reducing the burden on northern Manhattan's stressed electrical grid and cutting the building's carbon emissions by 52,000 pounds annually – the equivalent of planting 21 acres of trees. The solar panels will generate enough electricity during daylight hours to provide as much as 10 percent of the building's demand; enough power to run the elevators, lobby and hall lights and ventilation system.

On January 24th, 2008 a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on the roof of the building-adjacent to the photovoltaic array- to celebrate what is believed to be the first private cooperative residence in New York City to convert to solar power.

The building at 900 West 190th Street formally began operating its solar power system that afternoon with the ceremonial switch being thrown by Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell's young daughter. Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell said: "Since this is a matter of the future, I thought it would be appropriate to let the future, my daughter to turn the switch." The ceremony continued with speeches from Laura Hembree, Gene Bernstein and Jim Dwyer, who all serve on the building's co-op board as well as remarks from NYSERDA, President and CEO Paul Tonko, Senator Dean Skelos, State Senator Eric Schneiderman, Council member Robert Jackson, and Anthony Pereira, President and CEO of altPOWER.

Jim Dwyer stated: "Crowded as New York is at the ground level, it is the Great Plains of roofs with acres and acres of sunny, open space. Anyone so inclined can write a big check and probably get electricity from solar panels in a few months". As we were looking out from the Cabrini Terrace roof, we were able to see all the potential roofs that in the future could become solar powered.



About altPOWER Inc

altPOWER Inc was founded to provide expertise in the field of renewable energy with a focus on solar electric systems, especially building integrated photovoltaics (BIPV) where solar panels are incorporated into the shell of new buildings. The market leader in New York City, altPOWER offers equipment supply, system design and installation, consulting services, feasibility/cost studies and other renewable energy services.

About NYSERDA

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) was established by law in 1975 as a public benefit corporation. NYSERDA provides energy-related technical and financial packaging assistance to businesses and institutions to promote energy efficiency and economic development, as well as providing energy research and development programs that promote safe and economical energy production efficiency technologies in New York State. NYSERDA also analyzes the effect of New York's energy, regulatory and environmental policies on the State's business, institutional, and residential energy consumers.

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