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A 4-megawatt solar farm is currently under construction atop a section of the capped former Southampton Town landfill on Majors Path in North Sea, a first-of-its-kind project on the South Fork that renewable energy advocates say could be a boost for finding creative places to put solar arrays.

MICHAEL WRIGHT

Solar Farm Will Pay Dividends

BY MICHAEL WRIGHT

Construction is underway on the South Fork's second solar farm, atop a portion of the capped former landfill at the Southampton Town transfer station on Majors Path in North Sea — from which 500 town residents will get 20 years of electrical bill discounts.

The 12,000 panels being erected on steel frames set atop the former landfill, on concrete footings designed to not penetrate the membrane barrier that caps the garbage pile, is the first in New York State to be developed under an agreement called "community distributed generation." It requires that the de-

Town says panels at capped landfill will provide discounted electric bills

veloper share a portion of the income from the sale of the power from the farm with the

"This has been coming for a long time," said Frank Zappone, the recently retired deputy town

'This is the right project in the right location,' said Lynn Arthur.

town and with selected residents who will get up to 8 percent off their electricity bills.

The 500 residents who will receive the credits will be chosen by lottery.

supervisor who spearheaded the development of the project. "It started three or four years ago. We did [a request for proposals] for a developer to design and construct, and then we had to

resolve some issues with PSEG and LIPA for EPA permitting, which took a long time, and we finally mobilized in January and February."

When it is completed and operational early next year, the solar array will generate about 4 megawatts of power, feeding the grid enough to power about 800 homes at times of peak output.

Landfills have proven to be ripe for solar development around the country and New York State has been encouraging their proliferation.

The North Sea site proved to be well situated to host the sizable facility. There is a 5-megawatt

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