

TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON



North Sea Landfill Site Circa 1975



North Sea Solar Array, March 2025

SOUTHAMPTON'S FORMER SUPERFUND SITE TRANSFORMED

The North Sea Municipal Landfill (1370 Majors Path, Southampton), a former town refuse collection site, has seen significant change over the past 30 years. The Southampton Youth Service Center, recreational fields, playgrounds, pickle ball courts, and one of the Town's four recycling centers have been built on its reclaimed grounds. Now, Long Island's first municipally-sponsored community solar project also resides there.

From 1963 – 1995, the 131-acre site, owned and operated by the Town of Southampton, accepted municipal and septic system waste from residential, industrial, and commercial sources. The EPA placed the landfill on the Superfund Program's National Priorities List in June 1986. After intensive investigation, the EPA implemented a remediation program in partnership with the Town from 1992-1994. During the process over 100,000 cubic yards of material were removed, creating four areas: Cell #1, Cell #2, Cell #3, and former septic sludge or scavenger lagoons. A landfill cap and perimeter gas venting system were constructed for Cell #1. The site was removed from the National Priorities List in 2005.

The site's remediated status and ongoing monitoring/reporting of conditions allowed for its limited redevelopment. In 2003, the Town dedicated the new Southampton Youth Services (SYS) facility, a 55,000 square-foot building dedicated to recreation and wellness programs for young people and adults. The Town's Parks Department also developed the North Sea Community Park on the site. This outdoor recreational space includes pickle ball courts, bocce courts, soccer fields, a playground, and a skate park—a great gathering place for community members of all ages.





Encouraged by the EPA to develop the capped landfill portion of the site, the Town undertook the necessary research and planning to build a community solar facility over portions of Cells #1 and #2. In 2021, the Town issued a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) to select a contractor to design, build, operate and maintain the project. Seven well-qualified firms responded, and after a series of interviews with the responding firms, the Town selected Kearsarge Energy of Massachusetts based on their experience building

on landfills and their strong technical, managerial, and financial credentials. The Town reached an agreement and entered into a contract with Kearsarge in 2023. Design work and permitting requirements for the project continued for almost a year, with some delays caused by COVID-19-related issues. Construction began in the summer of 2024 and was completed in early 2025. The solar array’s development utilized Long Island-based electrical, engineering and construction firms, creating jobs and adding to the local economy.

The facility officially became active on March 2025, commemorated by a ribbon-cutting ceremony onsite. The site not only provides lease revenue to the town over the 20 year life of the program but also generates energy bill credits for both the Town and the community. Additionally, the site delivers badly needed renewable energy to the LIPA grid to help meet our growing electricity demands, supplying enough renewable energy for 773 households.

Developing the site, the SYS facility, the North Sea Community Park, the Recycling Center and the Solar Array was a long and arduous process. Kudos to the Town of Southampton for having a vision for the site’s future and a commitment to achieving its ultimate transformation, bringing direct, measurable benefits to the Southampton community.

NORTH SEA LANDFILL SOLAR ARRAY PROJECTS BENEFITS

\$ ECONOMIC	🌳 SUSTAINABILITY
No cost Energy Bill Credits for the Community	Producing 8,600,000 KW hrs. of renewable electric energy per year.
No cost Energy Bill Credits for the Town	Produces enough electric energy to meet the needs of 773 households
Annual lease payments to the Town for the 20 years of the project life providing \$1,656,680 in non-taxpayer revenue*	Renewable energy contribution to the LIPA Grid in a critical load pocket (high demand)
Creating jobs for Long Island based engineering, electrical and construction contractors.	Eliminates 5,413 metric tons of CO ² annually, the equivalent produced by 1,263 gasoline power cars for one year

*Town has the option renew project contract for another 5 years.

TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON

Maria Z. Moore, Supervisor

Michael A. Iasilli, Councilmember

Rick Martel Councilman

Cyndi McNamara, Councilwoman

William Pell, Councilman

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