



REP. PASCRELL HERALDS NATION'S LARGEST ON-CAMPUS SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT INSTALLED AT WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

Solar project will eventually meet 20 percent of WPU's energy needs and save \$4.3 million in energy costs

WASHINGTON – Citing it as a major step in the “green energy revolution,” U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ-8) today heralded the initiation of William Paterson University's new solar energy project. The solar energy installation, the largest of its kind at any university in the United States, will eventually meet 20 percent of the university's energy needs and is projected to save \$4.3 million in energy costs during the next 15 years.

The solar energy project is a part of the William Paterson University's overall effort to reduce its carbon footprint. The university's efforts have also been aided by a \$1.2 million grant from the Recovery Act to upgrade the controls for the campus' heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems to more energy-efficient prototypes. The Recovery Act funding for the HVAC upgrade was part of more than \$27 billion dollars provided in the legislation for energy efficiency programs and renewable energy research and investments.

“This was the largest investment in clean energy in our nation's history. Because of these federal grants, I am very proud to be able to say that I will soon represent the largest solar installation at any university in the entire country,” said Pascrell, a House Ways and Means Committee member who voted with the House majority for the Recovery Act in February 2009. At the request of Rep. Pascrell, the U.S. Department of Energy sent its Solar Projects Manager, John Lushetsky, up from Washington, DC, to be a part of the celebration.

“This university-wide science project will not only improve the campus's energy efficiency, but also teach students and visitors about the real world impact that clean energy technologies can have on our country,” Pascrell said. “As the tragic oil spill in the gulf this summer showed us, there are consequences to our addiction to oil and other kinds of dirty energy that pollute our planet in addition to contributing to global climate change. I proudly salute newly inaugurated President Waldron, and William Paterson University, for leading us in this great step forward in the green energy revolution.”

To keep the campus community informed about the university's energy savings, a kiosk will be installed in the science building that will display in real time the amount of energy produced – and money saved – by the solar panels.

William Paterson University's partners in the solar project are two New Jersey-based companies:

Nautilus Solar Energy, LLC and Sundance Energy.