

# Town of Windham

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## MEMO

DATE: May 8, 2014

TO: Windham Town Council

THROUGH: Tony Plante, Town Manager

FROM: Ben Smith, Planning Director, *BWS* on behalf of the Windham Energy Advisory Committee

Cc: Windham Energy Advisory Committee

RE: Grant application from the Energy Advisory Committee for new solar energy arrays near the skate park

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An application has been submitted on behalf of the Energy Committee and the Town for a grant from Efficiency Maine in the amount of \$50,000 for a solar energy system near the skate park. The complete grant application is attached. Grant awards are for Renewable Energy Demonstration projects carried out by municipalities and non-profits, and for Research & Development projects at Maine colleges and universities.

If awarded the grant, the Town will contract with Revision Energy for the installation of a carport mounted solar array, and a sun tracking, ground mounted solar array. The total system capacity will be 12.24 kW, which will offset approximately 80% of the annual electrical usage of the Town Office Annex.

The skate park property was selected because the system must be installed on Town property in order to meet the requirements of Net Energy Billing to offset Town Office energy use, because that property has excellent solar exposure, and the skate park facility has a well defined parking area and Route 202 access, furthering the intent of providing a visible and accessible demonstration project.

The proposed 12.24 kW system will consist of a total of 48 solar panels on two separate arrays. This compares with the existing 40 kW rooftop system installed at the East Windham Fire Station, which consists of 156 individual panels. This installation would be different from the East Windham project, in that the system would be owned by the Town, and the Town would benefit from 100% of the electricity generated by the system from the day it is activated. The Town entered into a power purchase agreement with Revision on the East Windham project, so Revision owns that system today, and the Town purchases discounted electricity from Revision.