

## Let the sun shine!

*SAS to break ground on the largest solar farm in the southeastern United States; the one megawatt solar array will be a tremendous boost for the development of renewable energy in North Carolina*

Published June 24, 2008

With global warming an increasing concern around the world, governments are taking steps to reduce carbon emissions by relying more heavily on the production of renewable energy. More than half of the states in the U.S.\* now have mandated renewable energy requirements in place. North Carolina's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS) requires utilities to meet up to 12.5 percent of their energy needs through renewable energy resources or energy efficiency measures by 2021.\*\*

In December 2008, SAS will flip the switch on the southeast's largest solar farm, supplying Progress Energy with power to help meet their solar energy requirement. When complete, the array will be one of the largest privately-owned corporate solar power systems in the world (see map).

"The solar farm is a smart ecological decision for SAS and for the community," said SAS CEO Jim

Goodnight. "By adding solar power to the grid, we're helping Progress

Energy in its effort to increase the use of alternative, sustainable energy sources. This benefits the environment and the communities in which SAS employees live and work."

"This project is a perfect example of the kind of innovation and leadership our state needs to expand the important role of renewable energy," said Lloyd M. Yates, President and CEO of Progress Energy Carolinas. "Progress Energy is moving forward aggressively and cost-effectively on renewable and alternative energy projects as part of a balanced strategy for meeting the needs of our growing region. We're proud to be part of this milestone. Our hope is



Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies Solar Farm, Skillman, N.J. Once complete, the SAS solar farm will resemble this structure.



The SAS solar farm will be located on five acres of SAS property off Trenton Road.

that this project, and the partnership and collaboration it represents, will be a model and catalyst for many more like it."

#### **SAS Solar Farm details**

- Location: Five acres of SAS property off Trenton Road.
- Designer/installer: [SunPower](#).
- System size/type: 1 MW capacity [photovoltaic solar array](#).
- Power generation: Estimated to produce 1.7 million kWh/year (greater efficiency will be achieved by using a directional system that tracks the path of the sun). The energy generated will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than 1,600 tons annually. This is equivalent to the carbon dioxide emissions from the consumption of more than 167,000 gallons of gasoline.
- Commercial operations date: December 2008.

#### **Model for the state**

As of June 2008, there are only a handful of small solar farm operations in North Carolina, including:

- Hamlin Energy Solutions, Benson: 107 KW capacity system.
- [North Carolina Zoo, Asheboro](#): 104 KW capacity system.
- [Carolina Solar Energy, North Carolina State University](#): 76 KW capacity system.
- [Delta Products, Research Triangle Park](#): 30 KW capacity system.

"Increased awareness of environmental issues has led to growing demand for renewable energy in North Carolina and beyond," said Trish Dowty, Vice President, Corporate Services Division. "We hope other businesses in the community will look at our endeavor and understand the practicality of incorporating similar projects into their own business models."

"We're very excited at SAS' interest in solar energy technology, and we're pleased to assist with this project," said Bob McGuffey, Deputy Director of Operations, N.C. Solar Center. "This will be one of the largest solar electric systems ever installed in North Carolina and possibly in the Southeastern U.S. SAS' experience will provide valuable information and data for other companies and organizations developing large-scale solar power projects."

\*Wiser, Ryan and Barbose, Galen. "Renewables Portfolio Standards in the United States: A Status Report with Data through 2007" <http://eetd.lbl.gov/ea/ems/reports/lbnl-154e.pdf>

\*\*Senate Bill 3 was signed into law Aug. 20, 2007, requiring investor-owned utilities in North Carolina to meet up to 12.5 percent of their energy needs through renewable energy resources or energy efficiency measures. See [North Carolina Utilities Commission Web site](#).