

# Moultonboro Solar Project

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the Moultonboro Solar Project?**

The Moultonborough Solar Project consists of approximately 8,000 solar panels controlled by more than 40 DC to AC inverters, producing up to 2,000 kW of power. The project is located on 12 acres of a 65 acre site owned by NHEC in Moultonborough, NH.

### **How much electric energy will the Project produce?**

The Project is expected to produce more than 3.1 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per year for the next 25 years or more, enough to meet the typical annual electricity needs for about 600 member homes.

### **Why did the Co-op decide to build the Moultonborough Solar Project?**

For over three decades NHEC has supported the development of renewable energy production in our service territory, the state and the region. Beginning in 2007, all electric energy suppliers in New Hampshire were required by law to procure specified and growing amounts of the electricity they sell from various classes of renewable resources, including solar photovoltaics (PV) like Moultonboro. The building of the Moultonboro Solar Project allows NHEC to produce the renewable energy we need to serve our members on a long-term basis at a known cost. The project will also reduce the amount of wholesale energy, capacity and transmission services we would otherwise need to buy to meet our members needs.

### **How much did the Moultonboro Solar Project cost to build?**

The construction cost of the Project was approximately \$5 million.

### **How did the Co-op pay for the building of Moultonboro Solar?**

The construction was financed with the use of federal Clean Renewable Energy Bonds, a vehicle created by Congress and administered by the U.S. Treasury Department to reduce the interest costs of financing for construction of renewable resources such as Moultonboro Solar. The borrowing, at an effective interest rate of less than 1.5% will be paid down over 25 years.

### **How long will this solar array last?**

The array is expected to produce electricity for more than 25 years.

### **What costs does NHEC avoid by generating solar power at the Moultonborough array?**

The Project will reduce the amount of wholesale energy, capacity and transmission services your Co-op would need to purchase to serve its members.

### **How will the Project impact my bill?**

The Project is expected to add an estimated \$0.00004 per kWh to Co-op power costs over the 25 year life of the Project after the estimated benefits and costs of the project are accounted for.

### **Will the Project pay for itself?**

The Project is expected to conservatively produce benefits that are slightly less than the costs over the 25 year life of the Project. The Project could perform better than expected, future wholesale market

value and transmission costs could prove to be higher than assumed, or the Project could last longer than 25 years. Should any of these occur, the Project will likely produce more benefit than cost.

**What are other benefits of the Project?**

Distributed energy resources are playing a bigger role than ever before in the Co-op's power supply mix. The Moultonboro Solar Project is helping your Co-op learn how this renewable technology interacts with the distribution system so we can plan for increasing amounts in the future while not impacting the reliability and resiliency our members rely on us to deliver.

**Does the Project also have battery storage?**

The Project does not have battery storage. Your Co-op is actively looking at options to do so. Adding electricity storage at this same site would help us learn how to use the technology to add even more value for our members and the distribution system.