

Farm-Way solar system formally dedicated

By Bernie Marvin

BRADFORD—A solar system that provides electrical power to the huge Farm-Way complex on the Lower Plain off Route 25 was officially dedicated yesterday as area officials and Vermont Governor Jim Douglas came to heap praise on a successful investment that draws its energy from the sun.

The system, which takes the sun's energy and converts it into about half Farm-Way's electrical needs, consists of 300 gleaming solar panels installed to the rear of their commercial property.

The energy flows directly into the buildings that host one of Vermont's successful family organizations, where they sell a wide variety of clothing, recreational equipment, furniture, sporting goods, footwear and fencing, and provides about 43 percent of that energy requirement.

The system went on line earlier in the year and Governor Douglas came to Bradford to tell the Gallerani family personally that this is the way he would like to see the State of Vermont go in the same direction.

He told about 100 visitors last Friday who gathered at the site that some of the state monies dedicated to the Farm-Way system from the Clean Energy Development Fund. He said other solar projects in the state contribute to generating about 10 megawatts of power in the state.

He said new monies from the stimulus package out of Washington, DC will make about \$22 million available for additional projects throughout the state.

He said economically, it is important for the state to diversify its sources of electricity in order to have small business power needs become more cost effective in a so-so economy.

He said solar power will be quite cost effective for those businesses, such as Farm-Way, and people will see a lower cost power produced in Vermont.

He said the state and the people at Farm-Way have a strong commitment to the stewardship of the environment and clean energy.

Others speaking at the event included part of the Farm-Way owner-family, Paul Gallerani, his daughter, Carol Metayer, Vermont Senator Jane Kitchel; representatives from the company that installed the units at Farm-Way, Gro Solar of White River Junction, Jim McAllister and Jim Roper; Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders' Field Representative, Jenny Nelson; Bradford Select Board Chair, Ted Inkles; another part of the Farm-Way family, Bobbie Gallerani, Farm-Way family son-in-law and solar project coordinator, Skip Metayer; former Vermont State Representative Bud Orterman; and New Hampshire Executive Councilor and County Commissioner Ray Burton and NH Representative and Chair of the Haverhill Select Board, Rick Ladd.

Metayer said in an interview just prior to the program, he said there are plans afoot to expand the existing number of solar panels from 300 to perhaps 350 so increased power can be sent to the buildings.



At Right: A group of local residents and Vermont and New Hampshire leaders watched as Governor Jim Douglas and the Gallerani family dedicated the new solar power project at Farm-Way in Bradford.



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Vermont Governor Jim Douglas spoke along with several officials from Vermont and New Hampshire at the dedication of a new solar energy project at the Farm-Way complex on Route 25 in Bradford. Governor Douglas praised the project as a leader in the state's effort to have more businesses invest in clean energy.

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Cutting the ribbon to officially dedicate the Farm-Way solar system last Friday were, (L-R) GroSolar company representatives Jim Roper and Kevin McAllister; owner Bobbie Gallerani; Bradford Select Board Chair Ted Unkles; Vermont Governor Jim Douglas; owners Skip and Carol Metayer; Shelby Metayer; owner Paul Gallerani. TBWS/Bernie Marvin

Attending the solar power dedication at Farm-Way in Bradford last Friday are, (L-R) Margaret Ladd and New Hampshire State Representative Rick Ladd; WYKR Radio personality Steve Puffer and former Bradford Select Board member, Joe Sampson.

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