
P2E2 Roundtable

June 21, 2011

Pocono Raceway: 3MW Solar Farm



On June 21, 2011, twenty individuals attended the PAEP P2E2 Roundtable at the Pocono Raceway in Long Pond, Monroe County. The topic of the meeting was on renewable energy and focused on the 3 MW solar farm recently constructed at the track. The meeting began with President, Brandon Igdalsky's overview of the project. The track's 25-acre solar farm produces between 3 million to 4 million kilowatt hours per year providing power for the track, and will also add electricity to the local power grid. Over 2.9 million kilowatt hours have been produced since August 25, 2010.

The total project cost was \$16 million dollars. The system utilizes 95% American made products and contains 39,690 solar panels. Pocono produces enough electricity to sell back to the grid and supply one thousand homes. Mr. Igdalsky explained that the panels also work well with two inches of snow because they are optimized for low light conditions. All of the panels are 100% recyclable. They do lose about 0.5% efficiency each year. The inverter is guaranteed for ten years. The system requires no maintenance except dusting during the high pollen season. The raceway's electric bill was several hundred thousand dollars per year, however, now it does not have an electric bill and produces 40% more electricity than needed.

Igdalsky also highlighted NASCAR's green flag tree program which donates 10 trees to local organizations for every green flag dropped during a race. Other green initiatives include NASCAR switching to E15 fuel. After the meeting the steering committee convened to discuss future meeting topics. The Roundtable thanks Brandon Igdalsky and Mike Parrent, Tobyhanna Army Depot, for providing the bagels and coffee. [Click here](#) for photos of the roundtable event are attached courtesy of Dr. Marleen Troy, Wilkes University.