

## LIPA launches feed-in tariff program for commercial solar energy



This week the Long Island Power Authority ([LIPA \(http://www.examiner.com/topic/lipa\)](http://www.examiner.com/topic/lipa)) Board of Trustees voted to approve a new Clean Solar Initiative (CSI) structured to provide Long Island businesses with the next 50 megawatts (MW) of [solar energy \(http://www.examiner.com/topic/solar-energy\)](http://www.examiner.com/topic/solar-energy), New York State's first [feed-in tariff \(http://www.examiner.com/topic/feedin-tariff/articles\)](http://www.examiner.com/topic/feedin-tariff/articles) program.

While commercial rebates were previously offered to businesses, now under this new performance-based program, LIPA will purchase, through June 30, 2014, up to 50 MW of solar generation located on its customers' premises through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) whereby the owner of the solar system is paid a fixed rate by LIPA for every kilowatt hour (kWh) of renewable energy generated over a 20-year term.

Applications for participation in the CSI will be accepted starting July 16, 2012 with the rate of \$0.22 per kWh of electricity delivered to LIPA's grid over a 20-year contract term subject to the PPA. The amount of electricity will be measured using a dedicated meter for each approved project.

This type of standard offer, performance-based incentive to help grow mid-to-large solar installations across Long Island has been used successfully by other utilities in the United States, Canada and Europe, according to LIPA. The CSI builds on the success of LIPA's Solar Pioneer (residential) and Entrepreneur (commercial and non-profit) rebate programs.

"LIPA has shown national leadership by creating the Clean Solar Initiative, which will unleash the commercial-scale solar market in Long Island by giving customers a straightforward opportunity to sell solar energy to LIPA," said Craig Lewis, Executive Director of Clean Coalition.

"Commercial-sized solar projects represent the most promising growth opportunity for solar because they can be deployed quickly and

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cost-effectively while delivering maximum benefits to the local economy. I expect that LIPA's Clean Solar Initiative will serve as a model for Clean Programs across the country."

Put simply, under the CSI, LIPA will be paying commercial customers over the 20-year period for the use of their rooftops to generate solar energy, after purchasing and having a solar-electricity (photovoltaics/PV) installed on their premises. To prevent very large corporations from overtaking the full 50 megawatt program, portions are being set aside for smaller and middle-sized businesses, 5 megawatts for 50 to 150 kilowatt-sized PV systems and 10 megawatts for 151 to 550 kilowatt-sized systems, respectively.

"The Feed-in Tariff is a highly successful, cost-effective mechanism used around the world, and will offer an even greater opportunity for the growth of solar power as an energy source for Long Island," said Gordian Raacke, Executive Director of Renewable Energy Long Island, a regional not-for-profit organization. "With this new step in the evolution of solar energy initiatives, LIPA is making a quantum leap forward."

More information about the program should be forthcoming, as industry companies scurry to absorb the details of how LIPA's CSI program works. For now information is available at [www.lipower.org/FIT](http://www.lipower.org/FIT) (<http://www.lipower.org/FIT>).

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Nancy Hiler, a "Go Green Gal" columnist for Patch.com, former local newspaper reporter, and communications/marketing consultant for Long Island-based solar energy firm for the past six years, is a mom with two boys in college, trying to do the right thing for them and the planet. Nancy began her...