

Narrative for the Solar Project at The North Area Meals on Wheels

North Area Meals on Wheels, located on 413 Church St. (Section: 22, Block: 02, Lot: 01.2) in the Village of North Syracuse is a fully “not for profit” organization that provides nutritious meals for seniors, the homebound, and individuals with disabilities.

Through fundraisers, generous contributions, and government grants, the organization has decided to invest in a ground mounted solar array to be installed in the empty field behind their building and between Interstate 81 and Sleeth Park.

The array will be grid-tied and is designed to produce enough electricity to completely offset the monthly electrical expense of their operation. This will allow Meals on Wheels to designate an even greater amount of their funds to their cause each month.

The solar array will be a 120.64 kW system comprised of 232 Silfab, 520-Watt Bifacial solar modules placed in 4 rows approximately 110 feet in length, 23 feet apart and 8-10 feet tall.

The entire array will be surrounded by a 6 ft tall, high-tensile, wire mesh fence.

The northwest corner of the fence will represent the closest point to any property boundary and be 40 feet from that property line which is the side adjacent to Interstate 81.

The total footprint of the array will be approximately 14,000 ft², roughly 2 times the area of the existing Meals on Wheels building and 1/8 of the space in the field it will be located.

The mounting structure for the array will be 6” C-Piles pounded into the ground between 6 and 10 ft below grade. This option provides excellent strength and stability, very minimal ground disturbance, and the option to fully remove the piles at the end of use with little to no altering of the original site.

The lack of any major disturbance preserves the current environmental state of the site and will not impact any of the natural drainage in the location of the array.

The projected lifespan of the Silfab solar panels used for the project is 30+ years based on the manufacturer’s 30-year performance warranty.

All structural posts, support materials, and hardware is made from galvanized steel, stainless steel or aluminum. These are all non-corrosive materials which will not present any type of hazardous run-off to the surrounding area.

The visibility of the array will be very limited. The west side will be blocked by the privacy wall that is being constructed along Interstate 81 and the north and east sides will be covered by the wooded areas of Sleeth Park.

The greatest visibility will be from the south along Church St. but will be mainly blocked by the current Meals on Wheels building and eventually blocked even more by the proposed Meals on Wheels addition.

The landscaping around the area will remain as it currently is and maintained by the Meals on Wheels maintenance crew.

Access to the site will be from the existing driveway for Meals on Wheels. No additional driveways or access roads will be necessary.

Based on the current DEC wetlands maps provided in the Delineation Report from C&S Companies, the location of the array will be located approximately 110' from the wetlands area and outside of the designated buffer zone.

The timeline for the completion of this project will be 4-6 weeks from the time the building permit is fully approved. All work will be completed by Next Generation Solar including the electrical work and interconnection.

Upon completion of the build, a third-party electrical inspector from the list of "Approved Electrical Inspectors" provided by the Village of North Syracuse will inspect the site and provide a final "Permission to Operate."

Once the electrical inspection is completed, National Grid will replace the electrical meter with a "Net Meter" and the system can go into full operation.