

SOLAR ARRAYS BRING OVER \$3.1 MILLION TO SHERMAN COMMUNITY

The development of two community solar arrays located on **land owned by the Village of Sherman** for a 25-year project provides \$3,104,000 to the Sherman community. This is **BEFORE** the discounts on electric bills.

Solar Liberty was the developer of the 4.625MW Sherman I array and the 5MW Sherman II array owned by Catalyze. Both arrays are active after National Grid made the final interconnection. Production, like any business, has its peak periods, where longer summer days will produce more than shorter winter days.

While the Village owns the land, it is not in the solar business, and the energy produced is not used, stored, or contributing directly to the Village municipal utility demands. Catalyze, who owns and operates the solar energy system, leases the land from the Village. The O&M – Operation and Maintenance Agreement between the Village and Catalyze involves agrivoltaic practices keeping the land in agricultural production. Catalyze has a multi-year contract with a shepherd from the Town of Portland who has brought in sheep and is responsible for maintenance of the grounds.

The electricity generated is immediately added to the grid. There is **no battery storage**. Therefore, not creating a fire hazard, noise, or other concerns with battery storage. The electricity generated does not directly supply the Village of Sherman. The sub-transmission lines carry the electricity over a loop supplying areas within WNY, including Sherman.

Facts:

- Solar panels **do not leak material** into the ground.
- Solar panels **do not make noise**; the transformers are very quiet; **NO BATTERY storage**.
- The **Village’s** acquisition of land is lawful under New York State’s Consolidated Laws for Villages.
- The Village is not in the electricity generating business.
- Catalyze provides bonding (insurance) of the arrays and their final decommissioning (shut down & removal).

What started as an inquiry to expand existing solar panels to reduce electric utility costs at the WWTP, led to the opportunity to do what is believed to not have been done anywhere else in NY. The full advantages of the community solar array benefit the PUBLIC. It’s very exciting to have found a way to creatively provide revenue to defray increasing costs of supporting essential and substantial infrastructure over a small rural Village with less than 300 residences.

This project, including the land purchase, was overseen by the Village of Sherman’s special legal counsel, local legal counsel, fiscal advisors and bond counsel. The exhaustive and thorough environmental review conducted by the engineering firm of Barton & Loguidice includes a strong Decommissioning Plan. The State’s Historic Office of Preservation, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Army Corp of Engineers, among many other agencies have reviewed the project for stormwater prevention and pollution, wetlands, glare, noise, contaminants, agricultural and other impacts before giving approval, consent, or opinions leading to the negative declaration of environmental impact.

The amount to be credited toward individual electric bills remains to be set up. Presently, Ampion Energy has been directed by NY State to focus on signing up residents of low median household income. Erie County has been prioritized by NY State and causing delays to our area sign-ups. Individual credits will add direct benefits for residents and businesses above the lease payments, PILOT, and HCA. These alone, on average over **\$124,000/ year** injected into the local economy.

PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes – approved by the Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency) provides to:

Sherman Central School	\$17,200 the first year	\$550,900 over 25 years
Chautauqua County	\$ 9,250 the first year	\$296,200 over 25 years
Town of Sherman	\$ 5,735 the first year	\$183,660 over 25 years
Village of Sherman	\$ 1,500 the first year	\$ 48,200 over 25 years

Host Community Agreement

Town of Sherman	\$12,765 the first year	\$408,900 over 25 years
Village of Sherman	\$13,490 the first year	\$432,250 over 25 years

For more information and video of CCIDA meeting summarizing the solar project:

www.shermannyny.gov under **Government** tab ‘**Village Community Solar**’

Updated 6/24/2025



Community Solar Arrays

- ❖ **1st Array connected December 2023**
- ❖ **2nd Array connected March 2025**
- ❖ **NO Battery Storage**
 - **NO 'Leakage'**
 - **NO Noise**
- ❖ **Total Village Annual Income \$55,000**
For the purpose of debt service.
 - **Land Lease**
 - **Host Community Agreement**
 - **P.I.L.O.T. – Payment in Lieu of Tax**