

## **Mohawk Trail Regional School District Advances Sustainability Initiatives with New Rooftop Solar Project**

*School District Touches Milestone in Sustainable Journey with Rooftop Solar Installation*

*Shelburne Falls, MA:* The Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) is thrilled to announce a significant leap forward in its commitment to sustainability with the introduction of a cutting-edge 374.88kW DC rooftop solar project. This endeavor exemplifies their dedication to a cleaner and greener future and inspires the community.

With the utility clearance anticipated soon, MTRSD is gearing up to commemorate this occasion on November 6, 2023, on the school premises. The event will be graced by distinguished guests, including MA Director of Rural Affairs Anne Gobi, MA State Senator Paul Mark, and MA State Representative Natalie Blais, alongside members from the school committee and the larger school community.

“In addition to substantial cost reduction for the district, we are excited to invest in green energy, which will have a positive impact on our students and families well into the future”, shares Superintendent Sheryl Stanton.

This remarkable project comprises 781 solar panels across their south-facing metal roofs. Once operational, this array is projected to offset a staggering 430,000 pounds of carbon in the first year and a total of 8,200,000 pounds of carbon over 20 years.

Besides its environmental benefits, the solar project promises substantial financial savings for MTRSD, bolstering resources for future infrastructural development and beyond. The anticipated savings are an impressive \$31,300 in the first year, \$39,000 as an annual average, and with \$796,000 expected to be saved over 20 years. Undoubtedly, these savings will play a pivotal role in the school district’s continued growth and progress.

Furthermore, aside from its immediate financial and environmental advantages, this solar initiative is poised to instill a sense of sustainability consciousness into its students and the wider community, providing invaluable learning opportunities crucial for ushering in a sustainable tomorrow.

This project results from a collaborative effort between MTRSD and the Hopkinton-based commercial solar engineering, construction, and service provider Solect Energy. As a wholly-owned subsidiary of Pattern Energy—a globally recognized renewable energy company—Solect worked closely with MTRSD to analyze their energy bills, savings potential, sustainability objectives, and roof and facility needs, to design and install an optimized solar project tailored to address their unique challenges and expectations. Solect will provide ongoing monitoring and annual maintenance services for the system’s life to ensure it safely delivers the projected savings and environmental benefits.

Mohawk Trail Regional School Principal Chris Buckland expressed, “I am excited to see the district taking these steps towards self-sustainability in a way that reflects our unique geographic

context and the importance of trying to play our part to mitigate climate change in our region. \_\_\_\_\_  
Much praise is due to the hard work and determination of the Outdoor Advisory Committee and Alex Osterman, who has championed the synergy of location and technology to keep pushing MTRS as a forward-thinking, responsible school.”

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**About The Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional School Districts (MTRSD):**

The Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional School Districts (MTRSD) cover more than 250 square miles and serve 8 rural towns, including Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Hawley, Heath, Plainfield, and Shelburne. Our distinct Trailblazer model allows students choice, flexibility, and personalization as they explore their interests and challenge themselves while being supported by a host of invested teachers and collaborative peers. To learn more, please visit [www.mtrsd.org](http://www.mtrsd.org).

**About Solect Energy:**

Based in Hopkinton, Mass, Solect Energy offers solar solutions, energy storage, optimization services, and financing guidance for commercial, public, and nonprofit organizations. For over a decade, our team has focused on our customers and communities while building a more sustainable world.

Solect stands on a robust foundation of the trust and confidence earned from our clients over the years. We commit to an enduring partnership right from the beginning of our project and work with our clients through the lifecycle of the assets we develop. We believe in relationships beyond revenue and inspire our employees - industry veterans with diverse talent – to conceive the best possible solution to ensure every project bears our mark of excellence.

Explore [solect.com](http://solect.com) to learn more about us.