

SolarCity Buffalo RiverBend



SolarCity—A Renewable Success Story.

Founded in July 2006, SolarCity provides renewable solar electricity directly to homeowners, businesses, and government organizations for less than they spend on utility bills. SolarCity gives customers control of their energy costs – protecting them from rising rates – and makes clean energy easy by taking care of everything from design and permitting to monitoring and maintenance. SolarCity serves residential, commercial, and utility segments across the country, and has provided or contracted to provide clean energy services to more than 300,000 customers. SolarCity’s high-touch approach to every phase of the customer experience has already allowed it to create more than 15,000 jobs across a range of disciplines, including photovoltaic design, installation, engineering, finance, sales, and marketing. SolarCity also hires locally as it expands, leveraging talent in each new location to boost local economies in new service territories.

SolarCity’s Manufacturing Facility in Buffalo.

In 2014, SolarCity, the nation’s largest installer of residential solar-power systems, acquired Silevo, a company that produces high-technology solar panels. Silevo had previously put a deal in place with the state of New York to locate a solar manufacturing facility in Buffalo. SolarCity honored Silevo’s commitment to keep the facility in Buffalo and worked with the state to increase the project’s annual production capacity by approximately five-fold. The manufacturing facility is expected to be

capable of producing 1-gigawatt of solar panels annually. The manufacturing facility will be approximately 1.2 million square feet in size on an 88 acre site along the Buffalo River.

The manufacturing facility is located at the High-Tech Manufacturing Innovation Hub, a high tech start-up facility owned by the State University of New York’s College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering. RiverBend was a former brownfield site where Republic Steel used to operate.

SolarCity anticipates that construction of the manufacturing facility will be completed in the second quarter of 2016. Final equipment will be installed in the second quarter of 2017, with module production commencing shortly thereafter. LPCiminelli, based in Buffalo, is managing the construction of the project.

SolarCity will operate the facility and is required to spend or incur approximately \$5 Billion in combined capital, operational expenses and other costs in the State of New York over the 10 years following full production. The operation of the manufacturing facility is expected to create 5000 jobs in New York, including over 1,400 jobs in Buffalo.

Once operating at full capacity, the manufacturing facility will ship approximately 10,000 high-efficiency, low-cost, American-made solar panels daily from Buffalo to SolarCity installers across the country.

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