

# IBEW LOCAL 363



## THE BACKGROUND

Solar-electric power is generated from the conversion of sunlight into electricity through a photovoltaic (PV) or solar cell. Photovoltaics provide Power Naturally<sup>SM</sup> and reliably. While the initial system cost can be considerable, NYSERDA has introduced an innovative program to make PV systems

## more affordable

and to encourage new PV installations through qualified system installers.

## THE STORY

**Members of Local 363 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) received \$296,000** from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to install a 60 kilowatt solar electric - or photovoltaic (PV) system for their Headquarters in Harriman, NY. Construction of the PV system was completed by members of Local Union 363. The installation of the system provided the installers with valuable firsthand experience. Now, the PV system provides a training opportunity for union electricians and contractors by increasing their awareness and interest in the technology.

**The system is managed by NPCP, LLC - the National Photovoltaic Construction Partnership.** NPCP was developed to give assistance to IBEW locals and members to install PV systems by offering easier access to government loans and funding. NPCP has projects underway in New York, California, New Jersey and many other states. The installation was one of four in which NYSERDA provided \$740,000 to support an overall statewide effort by local IBEW unions to install medium-size solar energy systems on their buildings. IBEW represents approximately 750,00 members in both Canada and the United States, including 600 electrical contractors in New York State alone.

**For more information call 1-866-NYSERDA or log on to [www.PowerNaturally.org](http://www.PowerNaturally.org)**

**“The more skilled electricians and contractors with experience in solar, the faster the industry will grow. That’s why this project makes so much sense.”**

**- Lee Smith  
Managing Director of NPCP**

## THE TEAM

- **NYSERDA:** funding and coordination of the photovoltaic incentive program, through the New York Energy \$mart<sup>SM</sup> program  
[www.PowerNaturally.org](http://www.PowerNaturally.org)
- **NPCP:** Designed the PV systems and coordinated training  
[www.npcpuned.com](http://www.npcpuned.com)
- **Local 363 IBEW and Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee:** Installed the Harriman PV system.  
[www.tricityjatc.org](http://www.tricityjatc.org)

## THE SYSTEM

The system at the Harriman site is comprised of 323 modules and two inverters to convert the electricity to alternating current so it can be used by the building. The system was installed using a prototype PV module mounting system designed by NPCP and Solar Design Associates. The mounting system does not require roof penetrations and encourages air flow across the back of the PV module which will result in reduced temperatures and increased efficiency of the PV modules. The installed system costs are approximately \$500,000 and the NYSERDA incentive is \$296,000.

## THE SAVINGS

The estimated annual output of IBEW system is **66,000 kilowatt hours.**

Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> for this system will be **reduced by 71,900 pounds annually.**

Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> for all four systems will be **reduced by 210,000 pounds annually.**

