



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Secure Futures to Build State's Largest Solar Project in Shenandoah Valley

Eastern Mennonite University Signs 104 kW Solar Power Purchase Agreement

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Harrisonburg, VA, September 23, 2010 – Secure Futures, LLC, a solar energy developer, announced today that it has signed an agreement with Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) to install a solar photovoltaic (PV) array on the roof of EMU's main library. The system, scheduled for installation in October and November, 2010, will have the capacity to generate 104 kilowatts of electricity, making it the largest solar project in Virginia.

During construction of the library roof solar array, Secure Futures will seek investors to complete the financing for a second solar array consisting of 300 kW of solar panels on raised solar canopies above the north parking lot of EMU's University Commons.

EMU has entered into a 20-year power purchase agreement to buy the solar-generated electricity at "grid-parity" pricing paid by EMU to its current provider, the Harrisonburg Electric Commission.

"This solar project represents good stewardship of the university's financial resources and the Earth's natural resources," said EMU President Loren Swartzendruber. "It will also offer a highly visible case study for our students and our community about the pragmatic benefits of clean renewable energy," he added.

As part of the innovative business model, EMU has agreed to pay in advance for 10 years of the guaranteed solar electricity output at the outset of the project, which reduces project financing costs. In return, Secure Futures will pass savings back to EMU as an annual credit.

When complete, the installation on the roof of EMU's Hartzler Library of more than 300 high-efficiency PV panels manufactured by the SunPower Corporation will be the largest deployment to date of solar power in the Commonwealth of Virginia. According to the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME), the state's current largest solar project is the 84 kW PV installation at the Merrifield Post Office in Northern Virginia.

“EMU is demonstrating that solar power represents a good financial and social investment – doing good and doing well,” said Secure Futures CEO Dr. Tony Smith, who also co-directs EMU’s Stewardship MBA Program. “This solar project will cut EMU’s usage and peak demand energy costs and thus reducing its reliance on power generated by coal and other fossil fuels. It will also eliminate more than 6,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions over the projected 35-year life of the solar panels,” Dr. Smith added.

“This is exactly the kind of project we want to encourage across the Commonwealth to move toward a sustainable energy future,” said Ken Jurman, renewable energy manager for the DMME. Using economic stimulus funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, DMME awarded an incentive grant for the project.

Working with local contractors, the entire system—solar panels, inverters, conduits and monitoring equipment—will be installed and maintained by Southern Energy Management (SEM) based in Morrisville, N.C. SEM is one of the largest solar integrators in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic, and has worked on other local solar projects in Virginia. Community Bank, based in Staunton, is providing construction financing for the project. Secure Futures has formed a subsidiary company to be co-owned with investors from the Harrisonburg community and elsewhere, Community Solar, LLC, to develop and operate the project.

About Secure Futures

Secure Futures, LLC designs, develops and finances distributed solar solutions with and for tax-exempt entities to reduce their electricity costs and to protect against future grid price increases through 20- to 25-year Solar Power Purchase Agreements (SPPAs). Secure Futures is based in Staunton, Va., and may be found on-line at www.securefutures.us.

About Eastern Mennonite University

Eastern Mennonite University is a leader among faith-based universities, emphasizing peace-building, creation care, experiential learning and cross-cultural engagement from an Anabaptist perspective. Founded in 1917 in Harrisonburg, Va., EMU is an educational institution of Mennonite Church USA. EMU has a strong record of sustainability initiatives, including several solar thermal installations, a LEED certified residence hall, a campus garden to supply fresh produce to the dining hall and a focus on course development tied to sustainability. EMU may be found on the web at www.emu.edu, with details of its sustainability initiatives at www.emu.edu/begreen.

About Southern Energy Management

Southern Energy Management is a North Carolina-based sustainable energy company offering energy efficiency, green building and turn-key solar services for homeowners, builders, companies, government and military clients across the Southeast. A certified B Corp, SEM’s mission is to have a measurable impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change, and to build a sustainable triple-bottom-line company. For more information, visit www.southern-energy.com.