

# School Receives Funding For Solar Power

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## **CBS EcoMedia brings renewable energy school's concession building**

The Manhasset Union Free School District Board of Education gratefully accepted funding to install solar collector panels on the concession building at the secondary school campus from CBS EcoMedia Inc. through the EcoAd advertising by Winthrop-University Hospital and Arrow Exterminating.

The solar panels, a 7 kW photovoltaic system, will be installed this fall at the Manhasset Secondary School's concession building. The funding will cover the entire cost of the photovoltaic system including professional fees, with no out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the school district.

CBS EcoMedia's EcoAd program designates a portion of clients' advertising dollars to provide financial support for environmental projects in communities through nonprofit organizations. This public-private partnership business model, which also includes the WellnessAd and EducationAd programs, is unique in the advertising industry and brings leading nonprofit organizations together with advertisers who fund education, health, and environmental projects.

For the Manhasset School District, this funding enhances a previously donated project that was initiated and led by Indians Rock Community Foundation. Indians Rock fundraised and installed permanent stadium lighting, the field turf on the back field, and the construction of the concession building. The official ribbon-cutting for both the completion of the stadium lighting and turf installation as well as the unveiling of the solar panels is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 21.

Mr. Armand G. Markarian, PE, director of school facilities, who was instrumental in obtaining the funding for the district, noted that the entire cost of the project would be covered by the EcoMedia advertisers' EcoAd financial support. Mr. Markarian anticipates an electric cost savings to the district of about \$1,000 per year from reduced electric bills and by selling electricity back to LIPA. This will help offset electricity costs to operate the concession building and sports field lighting.

As an added bonus, Mr. Markarian had applied for and LIPA has approved \$12,340 in additional rebates through LIPA's Solar Pioneer Program, for this project. Mr. Markarian noted that the district will be the beneficiary of the new 7 kW photovoltaic system, will enjoy annual savings of about \$1,000 per year and will get \$12,340 in rebates to deposit in its bank account.

An important criteria for Manhasset Union Free School District being selected as a funding recipient is its ongoing commitment to reducing energy costs, demonstrated by the completion in the last two years of more than \$3.3 million of energy saving projects funded through an energy

performance contract approved by the board of education in 2009.

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