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READINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES SOLAR PROJECT

The Readington Township Board of Education is excited to have approved another important step toward environmental sustainability. Solar projects at Three Bridges, Holland Brook, and Readington Middle Schools were approved by the Board at their May 10, 2016 public meeting following a presentation by Mark Warner of *Gabel Associates* and Ryan Scerbo of *DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick, & Cole, LLP*. The project includes installation of rooftop panels at Three Bridges School and ground arrays at Readington Middle and Holland Brook Schools.

Benefits from this project include:

- Reduced electricity expenses;
- A stable and known cost of electricity for 15 years;
- A domestic source of energy that decreases our dependence on foreign energy supplies, reduces the use of fossil fuels, and creates local jobs;
- An environmentally responsible source of energy that reduces the district's carbon footprint;
- Educational resources for our students which coincide with our Science and Math Curricula in tracking energy savings and learning about solar power.

This upcoming solar project is a strong addition to the district's accomplishments in sustainability. Whitehouse School was recently awarded *Green Ribbon* status by the U.S. Department of Education. Representatives from the school will attend an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. this summer. Three Bridges School received this award two years ago. The *Green Ribbon* recognition is an honor for the entire district as it represents a community commitment to energy savings and environmentally conscious practices.

Earlier this fall, the district received recognition from the *Sustainable Schools NJ* program. Three Bridges and Whitehouse Elementary Schools were awarded Silver status, a noteworthy accomplishment given that only five schools in the state were awarded Silver status in the program. Holland Brook and Readington Middle School were awarded Bronze status. The Readington Township community can be proud of the achievements in sustainability our school district has received. The upcoming solar installations at our school sites will further strengthen the school community's dedication to sustainable practices, responsible citizenry, and ethical decision-making. We are very proud to be educating the next generation on the importance of conserving energy and being responsible to the environment.