



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOWER INSTALLS LARGEST SOLAR CANOPY IN CITY OF ROCKVILLE

New solar PV system will generate 20% of the office building's electricity needs each year

Rockville, Maryland (February 1, 2022) – Today, The Tower Companies and Prospect Solar, LLC announced that The Tower Building, located at 1101 Wootton Parkway in Rockville, Md., flipped the switch on Tower's largest on-site solar photovoltaic (PV) system. The project is also the largest solar PV Canopy installation in the City of Rockville and will contribute to Maryland's long-term goal of net-zero GHG emissions by 2045.

In a statement from City of Rockville's Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton, she said that "the installation of the solar carport and electric vehicle charging stations at 1101 Wootton Parkway is especially timely given Rockville's work to approve our first Climate Action Plan. This is a great, innovative project that shows how Rockville businesses are contributing to clean, local renewable energy generation and helping our community meet our greenhouse gas reduction goals. We are proud that our city is home to companies like Tower that share the values of our community and are taking proactive approaches to help us meet Rockville's climate action goals."

The Tower Companies is a privately held and family-owned sustainable and healthy building leader that developed 1101 Wootton Parkway in 2001, continuing to own and manage the property today. The 290,000 SF, 10-story multi-tenant commercial office building is LEED® Gold Certified under Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance. The building is also ENERGY STAR Certified with a score of 84, which means that its energy performance is in the top 16 percent of similar buildings nationwide.

"Tower is proud to continue our long-standing commitment to sustainability and contribute to local, state, and national climate action goals that will improve the lives of generations to come" said Eric Posner, The Tower Companies' Chief Operating Officer. "We view this project as a smart investment that not only benefits the environment but is also a real value-add for our office building tenants. These solar panels will directly improve building performance, reduce operating costs, and take pressure off the electricity grid, yielding clean and reliable energy. We hope our work will inspire other building owners to take similar action."

Project Details:

The new half megawatt solar PV canopy system features 1,318 (435-watt) American-made panels in the adjacent parking lot, with an estimated annual production of nearly 690,000 kWh, or 20 percent of the total building energy demand. The onsite clean energy generated will be equivalent to the amount of carbon offset by 600 acres of U.S. forests annually. The project also included the installation of 4 new electric vehicle stations. Gregorio Sustainability LLC advised on, developed, and helped manage the project for The Tower Companies. Prospect Solar, a Virginia-based solar provider, designed and installed the 573-kW solar PV system. [A blog about the project](#) was posted by the Montgomery County

Department of Environmental Protection to share highlights about implementation and other partners that made it a success.

“Tower’s leadership on this project continues to prove that distributed renewable energy plays a major role in the future of new and existing buildings” said Andrew Skinner, VP of Prospect Solar.

The Tower Companies worked closely with the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) to receive a generous grant from the Parking Lot Solar Photovoltaic Canopy with Electric Vehicle Charger Program. Tower is excited that this project will help make progress towards the State of Maryland’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction (GGRA) Act, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50 percent by 2030 and reach net zero emissions by 2045. The Tower Companies shares the same climate targets, aligned with a commitment to ULI Greenprint and the Paris Agreement.

"Solar canopies are an excellent way to provide a dual purpose to land used for parking" said Mary Beth Tung, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration. "In addition to keeping cars cool and protected from the elements, the solar panels provide clean, renewable electricity to reduce the need for grid supplied electricity, while four onsite charging stations provide opportunities for employees and visitors to power their electric vehicles."

Tower’s On-Site Renewable Energy Program

In 2014, The Tower Companies completed the [largest installation in Washington, D.C.](#) on a Class A commercial office building and didn’t stop there. This carport installation is Tower’s fifth on-site solar project - and largest to date. By June 2022, Tower will be generating almost 2 million kWh of on-site solar energy across its portfolio using approximately 4,000 solar panels. 5% of Tower’s total annual electricity demand will come directly from the sun. Through energy efficiency efforts, including on-site clean energy projects like this one, Tower has reduced energy consumption by more than 25% across the portfolio since 2010.

****Photos are below****

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About [The Tower Companies](#): For three generations, the family-owned Tower Companies has maintained a commitment to responsible development and continues to envision a world where buildings inspire and enrich the lives of their occupants and create positive social change. Tower owns and manages over 6 million square feet in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area consisting of office buildings, retail shopping centers, lifestyle centers, and residential eco-progressive live-work-play communities, with an additional 13 million square feet in the development pipeline. In 2004, Tower was the first in the U.S. to achieve LEED® certification at a multi-family property and has gone on to achieve LEED® certification for 95 percent, ENERGY STAR® for 80 percent, and Fitwel® or Fitwel® VR for 95% of their commercial office and multi-family portfolio. As part of their commitment to healthy buildings, Tower is also proud to be the first building owner in the country using two innovative technologies centered on creating and monitoring indoor environmental quality for occupants. Tower has been carbon neutral since 2010; publicly reporting their portfolio’s carbon footprint to The Climate Registry and offsetting 100 percent of GHG emissions by supporting renewable energy projects in North America.

About [Prospect Solar](#): Prospect Solar, LLC was established in 2010 as the professional’s choice for design-build solar photovoltaic energy system installation. They draw from the construction industry experiences of their sister company, Prospect Waterproofing Company. A foundation of more than 25

years of roofing and waterproofing expertise allows Prospect Solar to provide clients with exceptional quality and value. Prospect Solar's turnkey service is as sustainable as their business model, and continual investments in solar training, certifications, and oversight ensure the safest possible installations. Prospect's services include engineering, economic analysis, financing, monitoring, and custom installations.

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Photo 1: The Tower Building at 1101 Wootton Parkway in Rockville, Maryland, photo credit to Berner Sanker



Photo 2: Solar PV Panels installed on the parking lot at The Tower Building, photo credit to Prospect Solar