



# Kingston solar energy storage

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Unitil broke ground in August 2024 on what will be the largest solar array of its kind in New Hampshire. Once complete in 2025, this project is estimated to generate approximately 9.7 million kilowatt hours of energy in its first year of service (enough to power about half the town) and save Unitil's NH customers over \$2 million collectively during its projected 40-year lifespan.

Our vision is to transform the way our customers meet their evolving energy needs. This project really best represents how our work accomplishes that vision for our customers. In addition to that, I think the project also represents two things we're very passionate about. We're very passionate about not only expanding clean energy resources here in New England but also about bringing affordable energy to our customers.

The array is being constructed on a 36-acre parcel of land in the area of an electrical substation. A fenced area encompassing the solar panels, inverters, transformers, and other electrical equipment will cover approximately 27 acres. It will produce electricity that will be delivered directly into Unitil's electric distribution system, reducing the amount of energy it receives from the transmission system.

The array, which is expected to be completed and brought online in 2025, is estimated to generate approximately 9.7 million kilowatt hours of energy in its first year of service and is expected to average 8.6 million kilowatt hours annually over its projected 40-year lifespan. Energy production will be optimized through the use of single-axis tracking solar panels that rotate on a single point throughout the course of a day, adjusting position to track the sun from east to west. While there are no current plans to install energy storage at the site, the facility is being designed to potentially accommodate storage in the future.

Universal solar projects benefit the region by affordably providing renewable energy. Unitil's NH customers will collectively see over \$2 million in savings on energy costs over the 40-year lifetime of this array.

The collective customer savings is estimated with an equation taking the total project cost (both construction and expected annual maintenance) and comparing that figure to the long-term decrease in supply costs that would occur as a result of the energy generated by the facility.

The NH solar array has no impact on natural gas rates or Massachusetts electric rates, though the Solarway array in Fitchburg provides similar savings for Unitil's MA electric customers.

Built on 15 acres of land once occupied by a fossil fuel-burning power plant, Solarway is a 1.3-megawatt solar array Unitil built in 2018 that can independently power 144 homes each year.

Since NH law allows a utility to build up to 6% (roughly 18MW) of its peak load distribution, Unitil intends to continue to explore opportunities to develop and build cost-effective renewable energy for our customers



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where there are opportunities to do so.

We'd like to thank a number of folks for helping us make this project a reality:

Ready to continue your clean energy journey? Check out the blog posts below to discover sustainable best practices.

Utility partners with ReVision Energy on 4.9-megawatt project in Kingston

Contact us for free full report

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