

# St. Lawrence University one step closer to carbon neutrality

By KEVIN SHEA

[KSHEA@WDT.NET](mailto:KSHEA@WDT.NET)

PUBLISHED: MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2018 AT 12:35 PM

CANTON — A 20-year partnership between St. Lawrence University and AES Distributed Energy will help further the university in its carbon-neutral goal, as well as yield \$1.5 million in savings over the next two decades.

“This has been in the works since 2015,” said Ryan Kmetz, assistant director of sustainability and energy management.

The solar site, near Watertown, became operational on July 18, which is when the benefits for the university began. The electricity will be going into the grid as opposed to directly into the school, but Mr. Kmetz said the school will be awarded benefits from the New York Power Authority for its partnership with AES Distributed Energy.

The partnership will reduce the school’s carbon emissions by 15 percent. Mr. Kmetz said that along with the sustainable energy it receives from Gravity Renewables’ Kings Falls hydro dam in Lewis County, it is about a third of the way to being carbon neutral. Their goal is to achieve this by 2040.

“To date the University has reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 27 percent since 2007 when we adopted our Carbon Neutral Date of 2040,” Mr. Kmetz wrote in an email to the Times.

St. Lawrence University has other plans to help reach its goal. After a year of analysis and research, its Comprehensive Utility Master Plan has been completed, which will allow the college to find alternate ways to conserve energy use.

The school is also in talks with a business to possibly install on-site solar panels.

## The gist of it

- WHAT: Canton university forms partnership with solar energy producer
  - WHO: AES Distributed Energy, St. Lawrence University
  - HOW: Power generated at a Watertown facility will create power credits for SLU
- 

### Commenting rules:

1. Stick to the topic of the article/letter/editorial.
2. When responding to issues raised by other commenters, do not engage in personal attacks or name-calling.
3. Comments that include profanity/obscenities or are libelous in nature will be removed without warning.  
Violators' commenting privileges may be revoked indefinitely. By commenting you agree to our full [Terms of Use](#).