

State: Here comes the sun power

By Thomas Grillo

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Photo by Angela Rowlings

The Bay State's largest privately-owned solar power facility was launched in Westford yesterday with the promise of more to come.

"Through successful public-private partnerships like this ... the amount of solar power installed in Massachusetts has soared in recent years, from 3.5 megawatts when Gov. Patrick took office to more than 60 megawatts today, with another 30 under contract," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Richard Sullivan. "That's a 30-fold increase since 2007. Massachusetts is in the midst of a solar revolution."

Cathartes Private Investments, a Boston real estate and energy development company, partnered with North Andover's Nexamp, a developer and operator of renewable energy projects, on Westford Solar Park. The 4.5-megawatt solar panel field is on 22 acres, surrounded by woodland, near Route 3.

National Grid will connect Westford Solar Park to the company's distribution system and buy its electricity. A new law requires the state's electrical utilities to buy power from Massachusetts-based renewable-energy sources.

Cathartes will receive solar renewable energy certificates, which it will be able to sell to utilities and other energy suppliers who are required to purchase them.



READY TO SHINE: Electricians Frank Perotta, left, and Tony DeSantis install solar panels at the new Westford Solar Park, set up by private developers.