

# Xenia moves forward with deal to provide it with solar power



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The city of Xenia is moving forward with a deal for a combined \$2.13 million in solar panels to be installed at two city wastewater treatment plants.

Solar Power and Light LLC in Miamisburg would own the solar installation and sell harvested solar power back to the city at a flat rate for 20 years. The clean energy would help power the city's treatment plants.

The deal is part of a mounting interest in southwestern Ohio and statewide in solar power and other alternative energy resources by municipalities.

The solar installation, which still requires permit approval by the Greene County Building Relations Department, would come at no cost to Xenia. More than 2,750 modules would be fixed at the treatment plants, 779 Ford Road and 799 Lower Bellbrook Road.

Another Ohio company, Athens-based Dovetail Solar and Wind, has been subcontracted to install the solar modules.

The systems are expected to last at least 25 years, said [Siobhan Pritchard](#), regional sales manager for Southwest Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana for Dovetail.



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**Bright Spot:** The city of Xenia is expecting to have solar panels installed at two city wastewater treatment plants and will buy the solar power in a 20-year deal.

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The Ford Road plant would have a 366-kilowatt installation, while the Lower Bellbrook Road plant, known as Glady Run, would have a 185-kilowatt array.

The two locations are ideal, Pritchard said, because they include ample land for the modules and the plants have enough need for the energy on site.

The power purchase agreement between the city and Solar Power and Light locks a fixed rate for power where other utility providers have variable rates, expected to increase in the next few years.

With this deal, Xenia hopes to become a solar energy pioneer in the Dayton region and an example for other municipalities.

“It sounds like we’re headed into some uncharted waters,” said [Chris Berger](#), public service director and city engineer for Xenia. “Other municipalities could be contacting us down the road, if they’re interested.”

Solar Power and Light declined to comment on the project while it awaits approval from the county to begin construction.

Solar Power and Light and Dovetail Solar and Wind have similar deals with other municipalities in Southwest Ohio and elsewhere to set up solar arrays, including Cincinnati where the companies have completed one system and could install others.

Interest in solar power has picked up in the past few years enough that Dovetail this month opened a Southwest Ohio branch in Cincinnati.

The company purchased a building on Kenwood Road for \$40,000 and spent another \$300,000 to fully renovate the inside, Pritchard said. Eight employees will work there initially, and Dovetail expects to expand in the region.

The company has six other locations in Ohio and Michigan.

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