



For Immediate Release

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Tibbetts Real Estate Takes Action with Solar Energy **Local Businesswoman Deploys First Commercial Solar Electric System in Darien, CT**

March 28, 2007: Darien, Connecticut -- Every single hour, the sun provides enough clean energy to meet all of the planet's energy needs for an entire year.

Judy Tibbetts of Tibbetts Real Estate is taking advantage of all that free energy by installing a solar electric system on the roof of her real estate office in the center of Darien. The system was designed by and being installed by Solar Works, Inc., a full-service renewable energy firm. The installation includes 36 photovoltaic (PV) panels and a small inverter to collect the sun's energy and convert it to electricity for use within her building. Any extra energy produced by the sun that Tibbetts doesn't need is automatically fed back into the electric grid, earning her business a credit on her electric bill while spinning her meter backwards.

"When I first heard about the capability of these systems, I was determined to find out more," said Tibbetts. "The story just kept getting better once I understood the financials for the project. Not only would I be doing the right thing for the environment but because of funding through the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund and a 30% Investment Tax Credit from the Federal Government, I'm making a great investment for my business as well".

"I think that this is the future. The beauty of solar electric is that it doesn't burn fossil fuels and has zero emissions which means it doesn't contribute to global warming" said Tibbetts. "On hot sunny days when CL&P is struggling to produce enough power to meet the demand for everyone's air conditioning, this system will be producing at its peak".

Tim Seamans, of Wilton, CT, the Vice President of Operations for Solar Works Inc. worked with Samuel G. Taylor, Consulting Engineer to design a system that is customized to the unique aspects of the Tibbetts building.



Solar Works is a renewable energy developer responsible for system design, engineering approval, state funding submissions, financial analysis and implementation. “Frankly, we enjoy working with customers like Judy Tibbetts who is not only a savvy businesswoman but has been steadfast in her desire to utilize a renewable energy source,” according to Seamans.

The 7.7 kilowatt system on the roof of Tibbetts Real Estate at 37 Corbin Drive will produce about 8100 kilowatt hours of electricity per year. Over the course of the 25 year expected life of the system, this system will save 110 tons of Carbon Dioxide from being released into the atmosphere which is the equivalent of planting over 1000 trees or avoiding almost 250,000 miles of driving.

The Tibbetts system is grid-tied, meaning that they still derive much of their power from CL&P, so that they have power in the evenings. On cloudy days, even though energy production will be lessened, the panels will still be producing a significant amount of power. Since Connecticut has some of the highest electric rates in the country and the Clean Energy Fund is very supportive of this type of implementation, Connecticut is a great market for clean solar energy.

“I’ve always enjoyed beautiful sunny days” said Tibbetts, “but now when our solar panels are producing an abundant amount of clean electricity, I’ll enjoy them even more.”

Solar Works, Inc. (www.solarworksinc.com) is a renewable energy systems integrator and developer, providing solar electric (photovoltaic), solar thermal and wind power systems for clients worldwide. Over the past 25 years, Solar Works has installed over 750 renewable energy systems. Solar Works has expertise in engineering design, project management, performance analysis, project financing and renewable energy credit programs. Founded in 1980, Solar Works is active in commercializing new technologies and developing renewable energy programs for both public and private sector clients.

Tibbetts Real Estate (www.TibbettsRealEstate.com) has served the Darien community consistently in a variety of real estate transactions including sales, rentals, property management and 1031 exchanges. Tibbetts’ loyal customer base has been the hallmark of its tradition, providing excellent service to the same families over-and-over, year-after-year. Benefits from joining the Tibbetts team include preparing a property for sale, both inside and outside, to guidance with negotiation and preparation for the challenges of moving. Judy Tibbetts, the principal broker, raised her family with husband, Paul in Darien. Both are long-term residents, familiar with every aspect of the community through their volunteer services.

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