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## Press Release

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### IMEA Plans Utility Sized Solar Demonstration Project in St. Charles

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At its November 2 meeting, the St. Charles City Council approved a siting agreement with its wholesale electric provider. That action essentially clears the way for the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA) to construct its first utility-scale solar project within St. Charles, Illinois, one of its member communities.

The 500-kilowatt project will be built and operated by a consortium of Convergence Energy LLC, Continental Electric Construction Company and Solar Power & Light LLC with the output sold to the IMEA under a long-term power purchase agreement. In conjunction with the solar array, the project includes an 880kW lithium-ion battery Energy Storage System (ESS) which provides revenue generating grid stability services managed by Chicago-based software company, Intelligent Generation LLC.

The ground-mounted solar panel array and ESS, which will cover approximately four acres, will be located on a city-owned lot in the Legacy Business Center on South Kirk Rd. & Legacy Blvd. in St. Charles.

“St. Charles is very pleased to be chosen through a competitive process as host of this new, environmentally responsible power generation facility,” said Mayor Ray Rogina. “It fits well within the efforts of our Green Practices & Initiatives program. I commend the work of the city’s team – led by city Electric Services Manager Tom Bruhl – that spearheaded the location of the facility in St. Charles.”

The facility is expected to produce enough electricity to power 75 homes. IMEA and Convergence estimate the total useful life of the project to be 20 years. Construction is expected to be completed in early 2016. The city won’t incur any ownership, maintenance or construction costs related to the project.

“While IMEA has a long history using carbon-free wind energy from a large project in Lee and DeKalb counties, we are excited to bring this leading-edge solar and storage project on line in 2016,” said IMEA President and CEO Kevin Gaden. “St. Charles is an ideal location for this investment and the city and its leadership are to be commended for their work in securing this for the city. And while the city will receive the direct output of the carbon-free energy, the project’s benefits will flow to our entire membership.”

IMEA procures wholesale power and energy from a variety of owned and contracted sources and delivers that wholesale electricity across the state’s transmission system to its members and purchasers. IMEA, which supplies wholesale electric power to 32 municipal electric systems and one rural electric cooperative in Illinois, has been in the wholesale energy business since its creation in 1984.

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