



ShopRite of Wharton Announces a 358 KiloWatt Solar System Installation

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Keasbey, NJ ([PRWeb](#)) October 27, 2008 -- ShopRite of Wharton announced today the unprecedented installment of a 358 kilowatt solar system - making it the largest solar installation for a supermarket in the state of New Jersey.

The solar installation consists of the mounting of 1,666 solar panels - each fixed on the roof of the ShopRite of Wharton at a five degree angle. Taking up 70 percent of the roof space, the solar panels will produce a total power of approximately 358 kilowatts and are anticipated to reduce the energy consumption at the store by 10 percent, saving thousands of dollars a year in energy costs and saving over 280 tons of carbon dioxide emission.

This installation has excited the Morris County Improvement Authority, an autonomous independent agency of the County of Morris that acts as a catalyst for economic development.

In addition, Wharton Mayor Bill Chegwiddden has served an instrumental role as a freeholder in realizing the solar project at the ShopRite of Wharton. "The ShopRite of Wharton's solar installation marks a huge step forward in our county's initiative to put into place energy-saving projects that will help cut energy bills and our dependency on oil," stated Mayor Chegwiddden. "It truly sets the example for schools and municipalities in the area to start installing green technology for a better future."

"This solar installment is a very important step toward solidifying our commitment to help improve the environment we all share," stated Irv Glass, owner and co-CEO of Glass Gardens, Inc. - which operates the ShopRite of Wharton. "We are very proud to host the largest solar installation for a supermarket in the state of New Jersey and hope that this paves the way for other future opportunities to reduce our impact on our planet," said Glass.

The ShopRite of Wharton tapped the Denville, NJ-based The Solar Center to install the state-of-the art PV (Photovoltaic) system. Currently, the project is in the engineering phase which consists of designing the system to determine the exact size and the number of modules used to convert sunlight into AC electricity -- better known as household electricity.

"We are thrilled to be working on this grand-scale project that is sure to set the standard for other commercial property owners in Wharton," said Gerry Heimbuch, vice president of Operations at The Solar Center. "This is the biggest green initiative in the township and we are proud that The Solar Center was selected for it," expressed Heimbuch.

Construction of the solar panels system is scheduled to begin during the first week of November and finish before the end of the year.

The ShopRite of Wharton is located at 314 Route 15, Wharton, NJ 07885. Its hours of operation are: (Monday -



Sunday) 24 hours a day.

About ShopRite

ShopRite supermarkets are members of Wakefern Food Corporation, a retailer-owned cooperative. Through the 200 stores, located throughout New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Delaware, ShopRite serves more than four million customers each week.

ShopRite has been active in environmental initiatives for more than three decades - long before it became fashionable to do so. In 1992, ShopRite implemented a bag re-use program. Today, more than 17 million bags are re-used by ShopRite customers. ShopRite has operated its own recycling center in Elizabeth, New Jersey since 1977. The facility recycles plastic bags, shrink wrap and corrugated card board. In 2007, ShopRite recycled 96,000 tons of cardboard, 1,760 tons of plastic film and bags, 949 tons of newspaper, 280 tons of office paper, 115 tons of metal and 1,490 tons of waxed corrugated. In 2006, ShopRite expanded its recycling program to include white stock pill bottles from its pharmacy department.

ShopRite is a longtime supporter of such environmental conservation groups as Clean Ocean Action, Conserve Wildlife Federation, Quinnipiac River Watershed Association, the Connecticut Audobon Society, The Riverkeeper and the "Teaching and Learning with Monarch Butterflies" educational program, among others. Each year, ShopRite also conducts its own ShopRite Earth Day Challenge. This annual event challenges volunteers to beautify their communities by cleaning up litter from local parks and beaches and planting flowers. In April of 2008, the ShopRite of Marlton, New Jersey became the first ShopRite store to receive the EPA's prestigious Energy Star Rating, a national symbol for protecting the environment through superior energy performance. Through the use of energy-saving technology, the store was able to reduce its energy consumption by approximately 35 percent.

About The Solar Center, Inc.

The Solar Center provides solar energy and energy systems for commercial and residential electricity generation. The company is a leader in solar design and installation, and is committed to serving the energy needs of its customers in a dependable and environmentally responsible manner in the Tri-State region. The Solar Center is a privately held company headquartered in Morris County, NJ. To learn more about The Solar Center and solar power in general, visit www.thesolarcenter.com.

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