

## Ribbon-cutting at Cuff Slocum Community Solar Farm

### BUSINESS NEWSMAKER

WESTPORT — At a ribboncutting Thursday, CEC officially designated its Westport project as The Cuff Slocum Community Solar Farm, named for a freed slave named Cuff Slocum who owned a home and farmland on the property. Lee Blake, president of the New Bedford Historical Society and a descendant of Cuff Slocum, joined state and local officials to celebrate the designation.

“The Commonwealth is a national leader in solar energy, harnessing the full potential of clean energy innovations to reduce costs and carbon emissions,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton.

“The Baker-Polito Administration is committed to working with municipal partners across Massachusetts to expand community solar projects, saving ratepayers and taxpayers thousands of dollars annually that can be reinvested into the community.”

Westport’s Cuff Slocum Community Solar Farm will displace more than 86.3 million kilowatt hours of fossil fuel-generated electricity – reducing greenhouse gas emissions by over 152.6 million pounds.

Senator Michael Rodrigues, who represents Westport and Swansea, spoke to attendees about the local impact of SouthCoast community solar projects. “The ongoing partnership between local and state government is critical in advancing the Commonwealth’s commitment towards achieving a more diverse and balanced energy portfolio,” he said. “The SouthCoast continues to be a key player in clean energy innovation, and I am proud that Westport and Swansea are doing their part to ensure that access to solar energy continues to grow.”



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