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Frost Valley YMCA

Frost Valley YMCA Unveils Solar Array at its “Flip the Switch” Ceremony on May 18th

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CLARYVILLE — As a hub for environmental education, Frost Valley YMCA is honored with the incredible responsibility of setting the standard for environmental stewardship. In that light, Frost Valley gathered community members and stakeholders for the official unveiling of its solar array on Saturday, May 18, 2019.

Attendees were invited to learn about Frost Valley’s new solar array and the importance of sustainability in the Catskills. Speakers included Jim Vaughan, President of Frost Valley’s Board of Trustees; Kathy Nolan, Ulster County Legislator for District 22; Leslie Berliant, Chief of Staff for Senator Jen Metzger; and Jerry Huncosky, Frost Valley CEO.

Frost Valley Board President Jim Vaughan spoke about Frost Valley’s plans to use the solar array to teach its campers and guests about solar energy and environmental stewardship. Ulster County Legislator Kathy Nolan discussed how Frost Valley’s sustainability initiatives including the solar array are good for the environment and serve as a model for other organizations. Senator Jen Metzger’s Chief of Staff Leslie Berliant presented Frost Valley with a proclamation on behalf of Senator Metzger in honor of its commitment to sustainability and investment in a green future. Frost Valley CEO Jerry Huncosky thanked the many people who helped make the solar array a reality and discussed the financial savings for Frost Valley as well as the environmental savings of 200,000 pounds of carbon dioxide that will no longer be emitted into the atmosphere each year.

Following the ceremonial ribbon cutting, attendees were invited to tour several locations around Frost Valley’s main camp including the solar array, the Resource Management Center where the camp’s composting is processed, the Jim Marion Maple Sugar Shack, and Leadership Lodge’s solar thermal array.

Installed by Solar Liberty, Frost Valley’s solar array consists of 672 bifacial solar panels. Providing 280,000 kWh of energy, which equates to the consumption used in 50 residential homes, Frost Valley expects to generate up to 35% of its electrical use from these special bifacial solar panels, which capture direct energy from the top of the panel as well as indirect solar energy reflected off the ground into the back of the panel.

“As an environmental education facility, as well as an outdoor recreational facility, we believe it is our responsibility to be model stewards of our natural resources,” says Jerry Huncosky, Frost Valley CEO. “Today marks an important day in Frost Valley’s history! With the completion of our 672-panel solar array, Frost Valley moves another large step closer to achieving its five-year strategic goal of reducing its overall carbon footprint by 25%. The array is expected to generate 280,000 kWh of energy, which equates to the consumption used in 50 residential homes. The nearly \$40,000 Frost Valley expects to save annually on its electric bill through the

use of the panels will be reinvested into future energy efficiency initiatives throughout our 5,500 acre camp."

"Frost Valley is continuing its longstanding leadership in environmental stewardship with this amazing project," said Ulster County Legislator Kathy Nolan. "Now that this much solar electricity is being generated onsite, Frost Valley, with its existing solar-thermal installations, greenhouse, renowned commercial composting facility, maple sugar house, and electric car-charging stations, gives us a way to experience today how exciting and sustainable our future can become!"

As a part of its larger sustainability initiative, Frost Valley recently added four hybrid vehicles to its fleet of vehicles and has two electric car-charging stations onsite available for guests. Frost Valley has been composting all of its food waste onsite since 1990. Over 400 recycling bins were recently added, along with 100 educational signs promoting recycling throughout the camp at both its main and East Valley sites. To learn more about Frost Valley's sustainability practices, visit frostvalley.org/sustainability.

About Frost Valley YMCA Frost Valley YMCA is a values-driven organization with a mission to foster youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility through outdoor educational and recreational programs for all. Located in the heart of the Catskill Mountains, Frost Valley provides year-round access to nature and fun through programs such as summer camp, adventure trips, farm camp, equestrian programs, group and family retreats, family weekends, school trips, teambuilding and more. Frost Valley, a not-for-profit organization chartered through the YMCA of the USA, is guided in this pursuit by its core values which serve as pathways for guests as they bond with nature and each other: Caring, Community, Diversity, Honesty, Inclusiveness, Respect, Responsibility, and Stewardship.

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Photo: Frost Valley Flip The Switch Ceremony.jpg

Photo Caption: Frost Valley YMCA officially unveils its new solar array at the "Flip the Switch" Ceremony on May 18, 2019 with Tom Holsapple, Frost Valley's Chief Operations Officer, cutting the ceremonial ribbon. The array, consisting of 672 bifacial solar panels, is expected to generate 280,000 kWh of energy.