



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J.
Morrissey
LEADING BOLDLY. WORKING TOGETHER*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Tim Holdeman
Water Superintendent**

October 24, 2011

Phone: 987-5738

**E-mail:
tim.holdeman@rockfordil.gov**

CITY OF ROCKFORD WATER DIVISION GOES GREEN

ROCKFORD - October 24, 2011 - The City of Rockford began construction on a major solar energy project today. The project includes the installation of 150 solar panels on top of the City's water reservoir at 1780 Bell School Road (southeast corner of Bell School and Rote Roads).

The solar panels were purchased by the City of Rockford Water Division from Wanxiang America Corporation New Energy Division as part of an incentive package to bring Wanxiang to Rockford in 2009. The 150 solar panels, each capable of producing 280 watts of power, were manufactured at Wanxiang's new production facility here in Rockford. The 42 kilowatt solar photovoltaic system will be capable of powering a portion of the energy needs of the water facility.

Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey is an ardent supporter of renewable energy to reduce greenhouse emissions. "This project demonstrates the City's active involvement in supporting renewable energy business in Rockford and improving air quality for our citizens," he said.

Pin Ni, the Chief Executive of Wanxiang America said, "We appreciate the City of Rockford's support of solar business. We believe projects like this one will help promote solar power in Illinois."

The contractor for the project is Renewable Energy Alternatives of Northbrook, Illinois. The local office of

Homer L. Chastain & Associates performed the engineering for the project and will provide construction observation services. City of Rockford Water Division personnel will operate and maintain the solar panels.

Members of the media are welcome to contact Tim Holdeman, Water Superintendent at (815) 218-2954 to set-up a site visit for photo opportunities.

###