



City of Detroit
Detroit City Council - District 4

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 9, 2024

TO: Trisha Stein, Chief Strategy Officer
Tepfirah Rushdan, Director, Office of Sustainability,
Jay Rising, Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Latisha Johnson
District 4 Councilmember

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Latisha Johnson".

SUBJECT: Solar Initiative Memo

Greetings,

Please provide responses to the questions below concerning the Neighborhood Solar Initiative:

1. What community outreach has been done in the Solar Initiative neighborhoods, and will there be continued outreach as the initiative progresses?
2. What is the estimated financial impact of the solar arrays on residents?

3. Does the city have any authority over the design of the solar arrays? What measures or design considerations are incorporated into the current plan for the solar array installations to ensure effective implementation of Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) practices? Specifically, how are the solar arrays designed or situated to mitigate potential flooding or adverse effects from increased stormwater runoff generated by the solar panels and associated infrastructure?
4. What is the significance of the acreage that the city is planning to utilize for the Solar Initiative?
5. What will the maintenance costs be for the solar panels and the land itself? Who is paying for the maintenance?
6. The initiative will currently only power the 127 municipal buildings in the City. Will the City consider expanding the initiative to allow homeowners and businesses the option to utilize and benefit from solar energy?
7. One of the main purposes driving the initiative is combatting blight. What security measures will be put in place to ensure that the solar fields do not become blighted from trash and illegal dumping? Additionally, how will the City prevent or respond to the possibility of individuals stripping the solar panels for parts?
8. The 250 acres of solar fields are stated to produce 33 megawatts of energy. Is there a possibility for the panels to generate more power, exceeding the amount of energy needed to power the City's municipal buildings? If so, how will the excess energy be utilized?
9. According to the contracts between the developers and the City, whenever the useful life of the solar panels comes to an end, the land shall be returned to the City as a green field. What will be the land's future use, and who will determine what that use is?
10. The OCFO has stated that 21 of the homes that the City is acquiring for the initiative are occupied. How many of those occupied properties are in District 4?
11. What are the expected benefits of the Solar Initiative for utility companies such as DTE?

12. How much of an improvement to our air quality can we expect as a result of installing these solar arrays?
13. Please explain how the DTE credit process will work for residents.
14. Please explain whether these solar arrays will contribute to the heat island effect and if so, are there any strategies being implemented to minimize this effect?

Thank you,

If you have any questions, please contact Parker Griffith, our Policy Analyst, at parker.griffith@detroitmi.gov.