



sPower is expanding on this existing solar installation in Calverton. / Google Maps image

## Solar firm closes on 109-acre Calverton purchase

By: David Winzelberg | November 27, 2018 | 0

A Salt Lake City-based solar energy firm has closed on its \$14 million purchase of 109 acres in Calverton.

Acquired by sPower, the former sod-farm land is the first phase of the company's 36-megawatt solar installation on the west side of Edwards Avenue and near its existing 45-acre, 6.5 megawatt solar panel facility.

The firm is in the midst of assembling a total of 290 acres in the area that will accommodate the largest solar installation in the state that will produce renewable electricity to power more than 8,500 households and offset some 73,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions each year, according to sPower.

The project originated in 2012 when LIPA issued a request for proposals as part of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's NY-Sun Solar Initiative aimed at making solar energy more accessible to homes, businesses and communities throughout the state.

Commercial real estate broker Marie Zere, of Ronkonkoma-based Zere Real Estate Services, who represented both buyer and seller in the deal said the solar installation is "a great use" for the property.

"Calverton was the only place on Long Island that had the large parcel availability, the right zoning and a municipality, the Town of Riverhead, that is business friendly and pro economic development," Zere said. "The toughest part of the deal was getting environmental approvals, which took five years to complete."



Marie Zere / Courtesy of Zere Real Estate Services