



MEMORANDUM

To: City Council
From: Joseph Melder, City Manager
Date: February 24, 2026
Subject: Enmarket Arena Solar Project

The purpose of this memo is to provide details regarding the Enmarket Arena Solar Project, an expansion of the City's current portfolio of solar installations on municipal facilities.

Enmarket Arena Solar Project Overview:

This project expands the City's current Solar Energy Purchase Agreement (SEPA) program in partnership with Cherry St. Energy (Cherry St.), and advances progress toward our 100% clean energy goals.

- The project would be implemented under a 25-year SEPA with Cherry St. owning, installing, maintaining, repairing, and eventually decommissioning the solar equipment at no cost to the City.
- The SEPA would begin at a rate of \$.1090 per kWh, producing net savings relative to 100% grid-supplied electricity.
- While Oak View Group (OVG), Enmarket arena operator, is responsible for utility payments and would benefit from the direct cost savings, the City would retain ownership of all environmental attributes associated.
- As facility owner, the City would also claim the associated emissions reductions, contributing to our 100% climate goals (GPS 4-III-2).

Existing Portfolio Impact:

The City's existing solar portfolio spans 27 municipal sites and produced 2,108 MWh of energy in 2025. The existing installations also saved the City over \$100K between July 2024 and July 2025. The proposed Enmarket Arena installation is estimated to generate approximately 917 MWh annually, representing a 44% increase in municipal solar production.

Additional Context:

- This project was introduced to current Sustainability staff in late 2024. As part of the project's due diligence, Cherry St. commissioned an independent structural analysis by Walter P Moore & Associates, and the analysis was reviewed and approved by Director Lawrence. The analysis confirmed that the solar installation would not impact the arena roof's structural performance.
- OVG leadership supports the project, and City of Savannah's Real Estate, Capital Improvement Projects, and Facilities departments have all been consulted.