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RIEDC approves grant for East Providence solar site

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The R.I. Economic Development Corp. awarded a \$200,000 grant to a 15 megawatt solar-power project at a 220-acre former East Providence landfill off of Forbes St.

The EDC also approved a grant and a loan totaling \$125,000 to Safeway Auto Service for a \$250,000 fifty kilowatt wind turbine.

EDC board members unanimously approved the grants and 10-year loan from the agency's Renewable Energy Development Fund.

The EDC's \$200,310 grant to East Providence for the solar-power project will be combined with a \$100,000 allocation of federal stimulus money as well as a \$40,000 grant from the Rhode Island Foundation to help finance the \$400,620 project.

City officials said the solar installation at the former landfill is planned to take place in stages.

The city has hired Boston-based CME Energy to develop and operate the solar-panel farm, which is planned to provide power to a middle school, and to the city's wastewater treatment plant.

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