



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Vermont State House
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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

Lt. Governor Molly Gray Joins Lawson’s Finest Liquids and SunCommon on Earth Day for the Ribbon Cutting of Vermont’s Largest Solar Canopy

Waitsfield, Vt. – This morning, Lt. Governor Molly Gray joined Lawson’s Finest Liquids CEO and Founding Brewer Sean Lawson and SunCommon Co-Founder Duane Peterson, on Earth Day, for the official ribbon cutting ceremony of Lawson’s Finest Liquids 495-module solar canopy, the largest in the Vermont.

The project, built throughout 2021 and 2022, is an example of the latest investment from Lawson’s Finest Liquids in sustainable practices. Today’s ribbon cutting ceremony for the solar canopy coincides with Earth Day 2022 to demonstrate support for environmental protection and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The official theme for Earth Day 2022 is “Invest in Our Planet.”

“This project is an example of exactly where we need to be headed as a state, nation, and global community. Extreme weather patterns and rising sea levels combined with a global pandemic, and war in Ukraine, continue to show us how deeply interconnected food security, economic security and climate security have become. Projects like this are a triple win for our resilience – strengthening our food and beverage system, our local economy and climate jobs, and reducing carbon emissions. Congratulations again to SunCommon, to Sean and Karen and everyone at Lawson’s Finest Liquids. This is an incredible project. Here’s to many solar-powered and produced “Sips of Sunshine” and sunny days ahead to help power the canopy and keep Vermont beautiful!” said Lt. Governor Gray.

Lawson’s first installed solar panels in 2019, an independent wastewater management system in 2018 and they partner with local businesses to responsibly recycle spent grain and byproducts. Lawson’s has prioritized reducing their environmental impact as part of their Green is Grand initiative within their Social Impact Program (SIP).

“From the beginning we set out to be the finest, source the best ingredients, invest in state-of-the-art equipment, brew the best beer possible and cultivate healthy, vibrant communities. That’s why our efforts in sustainability and striving to power our brewery through renewable energy are so important to us,” said Sean Lawson.

With the addition of the new solar array generating 215kW across 495 modules, about 60 percent of the Waitsfield Brewery's operations will be powered by solar energy. In terms of beer, this means around 2.4 million cans annually of Lawson's Finest will be produced using solar energy.

"Businesses like Lawson's show us that it's possible to provide great products, grow to meaningful scale, and generate financial success all while creating increasingly positive impact on the communities where Vermonters live and work," said Duane Peterson

"This ribbon cutting truly represents so much of what makes Vermont special – two incredible Vermont businesses, committed to social responsibility coming together for our community, for our climate, for our state and for our planet. It also involves two things we enjoy as Vermonters – sunny days and a good IPA!" said Lt. Governor Gray.



From left to right: SunCommon Co-Founder Duane Peterson, Renewable Energy Vermont Executive Director Johnathan Dowd, Lawson's Finest Liquids CEO and Founding Brewer Sean Lawson, Vermont Lt. Governor Molly Gray



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