

# Skip's Automotive Services

Feb. 26, 2019

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To Whom it May Concern,

I have been pleased to work with College of the Atlantic students and faculty studying renewable energy since 2012. In my interactions with students, I have found them to be professional in their approach, friendly, and knowledgeable about the issues at hand. I am proud to be in the forefront of businesses utilizing renewable energy on Mount Desert Island, a position I would not have been in were it not for the work of COA students.

In spring 2017, I hosted a class of seven COA students, led by Director of Energy Education and Management Anna Demeo, to perform a comprehensive solar analysis at my businesses, Skip's Automotive Services, in Southwest Harbor, ME. I had installed a photovoltaic array following a previous analyses by COA, but had subsequently built a car wash onto my garage and thus increased my electricity load. From my previous work with COA, I knew solar was a likely option, and contracted with Demeo's class.

As expected, the analysis was very comprehensive. The students calculated the multiple roof-spaces, examined different locations and orientations for a second array, and eventually made recommendations for the business. These included positioning guidelines, options for array size and configuration, and in-depth financial analysis, including federal solar incentives and rapid depreciation strategies, ultimately estimating financial payback in about four years.

Following such a positive report, I opted to purchase photovoltaic equipment and have the members of the class install them on the property. This was done with the help of local energy experts Robert Parker and Sig Eschholz, and the grid connection was made by electrician Stephen Stanley. Since going on-line in May 2017, my combined array has produced 24.7mWh of electricity.

I am pleased to support COA's efforts to promote education in sustainability and renewable energy. I look forward to working with the College on projects in the future.

Sincerely,



Skip Wilson