



OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY

ADA, OH

Construction of a 2 MW solar array that supplies electricity to Ohio Northern University was completed in September of 2016 and commissioned, January of 2017. Because ONU was so pleased with the project success and the array's output, the university again contracted with GEM Energy to construct an additional 1 MW solar field adjacent to the current site. The new array was commissioned in the spring of 2018.

GEM Energy secured the project financing under a negotiated Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) structure, and designed, constructed, and manages all ongoing operations and maintenance of the solar array. Under the 25-year PPA, ONU will benefit with a no-out-of-pocket solution where no university capital is required for the array's construction and maintenance. Project specifics include:

- 12 acre ground array: Phase I - 2 MW; Phase II - 1 MW.
- The solar field generates approximately 15 percent of ONU's annual electricity needs.
- ONU will include the solar array in its renewable energy curriculum. The program is led by GEM Energy and includes pilot student teams.



What ONU Leaders Say...

"Our board did not want to finance solar using endowment funds. The PPA solution allowed us to lock in our power rate for 25 years, produce 15% of our electricity needs and not use annual/capital or endowment funds. With GEM Energy for the construction, as well as ongoing operations and maintenance of the array, we felt secure that we had a partner who would be with us for the long haul."