### John Paul II Catholic Secondary School

The Path to Becoming Canada's First Carbon Neutral School Retrofit

### Funding Assisted by:







ameresco.com



### **Presentation Agenda**



# Project Overview & Goals



# John Paul II Catholic Secondary School

- Often referred to as JPII
- Secondary school in London, Ontario

- Built in 1991
- Hosts about 900 students



## JP II Project – The "why" of the project



### The JP II Project – Why Ameresco & LDCSB joined forces

- Ameresco brought the idea and concept to LDCSB, made possible through Natural Resources Canada's Energy Innovation program that came available in 2017
- Ameresco had been a partner of the school board to reduce its energy costs and carbon footprint since1994 executing on 7 major projects, including some preliminary conservation work at JPII, with a value of over \$50M
- Ameresco and LDCSB visions for a carbon future were aligned; the companies had a history of working together; LDCSB had confidence that Ameresco could deliver this project and it would be groundbreaking for both LDCSB's and Ameresco's demonstrated commitments to carbon reductions
- Ameresco assumed full responsibility de-risking the project for LDCSB both in terms of execution and capital financing

# Why a Microgrid?

- Distributed Energy Resources (DER) and Systems introduce challenges to Local Distribution Companies (LDC)
- Owners of these DER systems should provide economical solutions to these challenges to ensure maximum deployment at lowest possible cost
- Microgrids provide this solution



- DER systems that are connected to distribution systems increase fault current potential due to their generation characteristics. Inverter based systems, including batteries, introduce less than that of rotating generators
- DER's in a microgrid configuration provide an opportunity for the LDC to instruct the DER operator to isolate from the grid when real time fault conditions approach existing breaker tolerances reducing upgrade costs while also providing the site with superior electrical quality and resiliency characteristics



# The Importance of Energy-as-a-Service (EaaS)

- Investing scarce capital in projects that do not directly relate to a company's core business is difficult to justify in many cases
- Greater returns are usually achieved through investment in core activities
- Decarbonization is now a new challenge that all organizations need to find a way to implement even though, for most, it will not represent their core business
- The EaaS model helps to overcome this challenge by reducing or eliminating not only capital expenditures but the risks and responsibilities for managing the implementation and operation of new and more complex energy devices
- This project helped to develop how EaaS could help decarbonize existing school board building stock in Ontario by identifying those required project assets that should be included within the EaaS framework and which should remain with the ownership of the school board



### The Art of the Possible: JP II Project Financing





### The Art of the Possible: JP II Project Financing



January 2020 – Project awarded \$500K from Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) Grid Innovation Fund to test technical capabilities of DERs for potential market participation. 2021 - EaaS emerges as a much more common offering/solution in the market by energy solution providers. Guidehouse lists Ameresco as the leader in the field.

**EaaS** 

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, JPII Carbon Free Microgrid moves into commercial operation. July 2021 - Selkirk Advisory group arranges financing for JPII, as well as for other Ameresco BESS projects to minimize transaction costs. Key Project Technologies



### "Inside Measures"

#### **Existing Systems**

- Traditional Water Source
  Heat Pump System
- High Efficiency Condensing Boilers for heat injection
- Closed Circuit Fluid Coolers
  for heat rejection
- Constant Speed Heat
  Pump Loop Pumps
- Gas-fired Air Handlers providing H&V to Tech Shops
- Legacy Building Automation System installed circa 2007

#### **GHG Reduction Measures**

- 250-ton Capacity Horizontal Geo-exchange Heat Pump System complete with variable speed pumping
- High Efficiency distributed heat pumps for classroom HVAC
- Cascaded Water-to-Water Heat Pump plants for low and high temperature systems
- Variable Speed Heat Pump Loop Pumps
- Rooftop Ground Source Heat
  Pump Units to provide HVAC to
  Tech Shops
- Niagara 4 BAS
- Circuit level submetering system
- AASG Analytic Planner



250-TON HORIZONTAL GXH SYSTEM







LOW TEMP HEAT PUMP PLANT

RETUR

VARIABLE SPEED PUMPING







12

### "Outside Measures"

#### **Technology Features**

- 625 kW carport AC solar
- 1,100 kW / 2,200 kWh
  Energy Storage System
- Large Scale UPS Microgrid configuration and protection
- SCADA system for real time monitoring and control using battery, solar PV and site meters
- 1 EV School bus and 3 standard EV charging stations

#### **Output Features**

- More carbon free energy production than the school needs for optimal energy market participation
  - Grid energy needed can be downloaded at night into the battery for use during the day if solar energy not sufficient. to supply load
- School able to operate in microgrid mode whenever required
- Able to participate in Ontario electricity market



EAST END SOLAR CAR PORT ARRAY



1.1MW/2.2MWH BESS





WEST END SOLAR CAR PORT ARRAY



# Looking Forward – JP II Success



## Summary Data May to January



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Period	2018 Year Bldg. kWh	2022 Current Bldg. kWh	% reduction	PV Generation kWh	Grid Energy Purchased Import/(export) kWh	GHG Base tCO <sub>2</sub> e	GHG Base tCO <sub>2</sub> e
May - January	1,219,235	1,003,820	17.6%	725,466	(358,734)	28.6	Below zero

## **Projected Financial Performance for JPII**

- Carbon pricing facilitated the economics of the project
- The NPV of this project over the 25-year period is indicating that the business-as-usual scenario, which included carbon emissions, is slightly more expensive than the carbon free EaaS model







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# Thank You!

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