

# Ribbon Cutting Speech

Ghost written by Jacqueline Mayan

## **Good morning, everyone!**

It's an honor to stand before you today as we celebrate a significant milestone in renewable energy and community development here in Wahoo, Nebraska. My name is Rebecca Halford, and I represent Sol Systems, where I serve as the Senior Director of Community Engagement.

Firstly, let me introduce Sol Systems. We are a national renewable energy firm dedicated to developing, financing, and operating solar energy projects across the United States. Our mission is to leverage the power of solar to sustainably meet our energy needs while fostering strong, resilient communities.

Today is a testament to what we stand for – a collaborative effort that marks not just an achievement for Sol Systems but a win for the entire community. This project, a partnership that we anticipate will flourish over the next 30 years, exemplifies our commitment to long-term, local energy solutions.

Our journey in Nebraska isn't new. Since 2016, we've been active in various projects across the state, from as far west as Scottsbluff to Cozad, Lexington and Grand Island, and as far east as Norfolk (pronounce as “Nor-fork”), and now Wahoo. Our ability to navigate the complexities of power, energy, and financing has been a cornerstone of our success. Specifically, the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) structure has allowed us to offer solutions with no upfront costs, and the option for to purchase projects.

I'd like to highlight the importance of our partnership with GenPro Energy Solutions and Mesner Development. Together, we've managed to bring to fruition a vision that not only promises clean, affordable power but also contributes to the economic development of Wahoo. The proceeds from the land lease, generously offered by Denise Lawver, will fund the Wahoo Public Library, enriching the community further.

This project embodies a triple-win scenario:

- For Sol Systems, this highlights our dedication to expanding our Infrastructure and Community Impact Initiative, ensuring universal access to clean energy and setting new standards for responsibility in the industry. It represents our commitment to blending business operations with meaningful community benefits.
- For Wahoo Utilities and the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), it's a commitment to providing affordable power to their community while also progressing forward to meet their renewable energy goals.
- And most importantly, for the residents of Wahoo, it signifies access to local renewable energy, and a contribution to a cause close to Wahoo's hearts – the Wahoo Public Library.

In closing, I'd like to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone involved, especially to the visionary leadership of Wahoo Utilities, GenPro, NPPD, Mesner Development, and the supportive community members. This project is a shining example of what we can achieve together.

Now, I have the pleasure of handing over to Molly Brown, EVP of GenPro Energy Solutions, to share more about our journey and the operational aspects of this project.