

Director Jim Roth sourced in article on Oklahoma's solar energy potential



Jim Roth is a Director and Chair of the firm's Clean Energy Practice.

Jim Roth, Phillips Murrah Director and Chair of the Firm's Clean Energy Practice, was quoted in [an Oklahoma Gazette article by Laura Eastes](#) regarding solar energy technology and Oklahoma's potential as a leader in the solar industry.

Read Roth's comments from the article below:

Row after row of solar panels, which rest perfectly aligned and angled to the west, fill an open field along NW 10th Street in western Oklahoma City. When OG&E's 2.5-megawatt solar farm began harvesting energy from the sun less than two years ago, the company hawked the farm's ability to power a one-stop-sign town.

As the sleek metal of the solar panels glistens in the blazing sun, the electric utility company's aging natural gas plant stands in the background. When it comes to power stations, natural gas is king in Oklahoma, but indicators

show solar has a bright and rising future.

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“There is a tremendous amount of energy hitting the surface every day and we haven’t yet developed measures to capture it,” said Jim Roth, a director and chairman of Phillips Murrah law firm’s Clean Energy Practice Group and a former Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner. Roth represents solar and wind energy developers for the Oklahoma City business law firm.

“The technology is catching up,” he said. “Oklahoma is uniquely situated in that the best sun penetration happens at the time of day which is the most expensive time in the market. We not only have a lot of opportunity for local use, but we also have the ability to export at the height of the market each day.”

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Across Oklahoma’s western border and into the Texas Panhandle are hints of a solar boom. Roth said the major Texas projects foreshadow Oklahoma’s future.

Within Oklahoma, solar energy has caught the attention of utility companies. It’s not limited to the OG&E solar farm in OKC. Public Services Company of Oklahoma’s (PSO), which services areas around Tulsa, McAlester and Lawton, recent long-term plan calls for the addition of solar resources. Additionally, rural electric cooperatives are diving into small-scale solar farms.

“The reality is the technology is there and solar is being implemented all around the country,” Roth said. “I really believe this is our greatest potential – we have such blessings with clean natural gas underground, such blessings with world-class wind and with solar opportunity. Few states, if any, have the trifecta. ... Oklahoma is actually perfectly

situated for the future which is unfolding.

[Read the full article from the Oklahoma Gazette.](#)