



The **ARNOLD**
ARBORETUM
of HARVARD UNIVERSITY

125 Arborway
Boston, MA 02130
www.arboretum.harvard.edu

For Immediate Release

The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University Weld Hill Solar Project Opening *Celebrating Harvard's most ambitious solar initiative to date*

September 3, 2019 (BOSTON, MA) – On Thursday, September 12, the Arnold Arboretum will throw the switch on a recently completed, groundbreaking solar installation project at its Weld Hill Research and Education Building. The Weld Hill Solar Project advances the Arboretum's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, protecting biodiversity and human health, and enhancing the quality of life in Boston.

“The planet's biodiversity has been harnessing the sun's energy forever. At the Arboretum we are taking responsibility for our carbon footprint and our obligations to the planet,” said William (Ned) Friedman, Arboretum director and Harvard University Arnold Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology. “It is wonderful to be able to show the Boston community that climate change solutions can begin right here, in our own backyards.”

Complementing Harvard's Climate Action Plan and the city of Boston's Carbon Free initiative to become fossil-fuel free by 2050, the Weld Hill Solar Project will provide up to 30 percent of the energy used by the Weld Hill Research and Education Building in Roslindale. Situated on 1.2 acres, 1,152 ground-mounted solar panels and a 145-panel solar awning constitute a system capable of producing 542,061 kilowatt hours a year to help power the study of plant life at the Arboretum. In response to global insect declines, space beneath one array will be planted as a pollinator meadow, the first of its kind for a solar field in Massachusetts.

Representing the third and largest solar installation at the Arboretum as part of the University's institutional commitment to sustainable development and fighting climate change, the Weld Hill Solar Project will increase Harvard's solar energy capacity by nearly a third, reducing dependence on fossil fuel and nuclear-generated electricity. All three Arboretum projects – which include additional arrays at the Hunnewell Building and Dana Greenhouses – were funded by Harvard's Green Revolving Fund.

Katie Lapp, Harvard's executive vice president, emphasized the project's impact.

“We as a University are continually reviewing practices to lower our carbon footprint and become a progressively sustainable institution,” she said. “The Arnold Arboretum is helping carry out that mission, not only through the advancement of scientific research through its living collections, but also as an important leader in sustainability efforts at Harvard.”

The celebration includes guest speakers *Harvard President Lawrence S. Bacow; Mayor of Boston Martin J. Walsh; City of Boston Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space Christopher Cook; and Boston City Councilor Matt O'Malley* and takes place at 10 a.m. behind the Weld Hill Research and Education Building, 1300 Centre St., Roslindale, MA 02131.

###

More information:

[Read story in the Harvard Gazette](#)

[Weld Hill Solar Project flyover on YouTube](#)

[Press page and promotional images](#)

Social tags #ArnoldArboretum and @ArnoldArboretum

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Jon Hetman, 617.384.5763, jon_hetman@harvard.edu

Deborah Blackwell, 617.384.7011, deborah_blackwell@harvard.edu

About the Arnold Arboretum

Founded in 1872 as North America's first public arboretum, the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University is a leading center for the study of biodiversity and a cherished 281-acre Boston landscape open free year-round. One of the most comprehensive and best documented collections of temperate woody plants in the world, the Arboretum promotes the understanding and appreciation of plants through horticulture, world-class research, and education programs for all ages.

125 Arborway, Boston, MA 02130

arboretum.harvard.edu