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Democrat and Chronicle

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025 | DEMOCRATANDCHRONICLE.COM

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A GreenSpark Solar installer walks among the solar array on the roof of Foodlink headquarters. The system can generate enough electricity to power 210 homes a year. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY GREENSPARK SOLAR

Renewable energy projects trimmed

NYPA cites Trump-era tax credit rollbacks

Thomas C. Zambito
New York State Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

The New York Power Authority plans to develop, own and operate dozens of renewable energy projects in 2026, among them a solar farm on a shuttered Albany landfill and energy storage systems in Westchester County.

NYPA's updated renewables plan, unveiled at its monthly meeting in White Plains on Dec. 9, includes 39 solar arrays, three wind projects and some 150 battery systems that store energy until it's needed for the grid during times of peak demand. Nearly all of those are in Westchester County and New York City.

But the list of projects has been scaled back since July when NYPA said it had plans to develop, own or operate renewable and battery projects totaling nearly 7 gigawatts of capacity.

Since then, projects totaling 1.5 gigawatts of capacity have been eliminated from NYPA's plans as reductions in federal tax credits advanced by the Trump Administration, costly interconnections to the grid and

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Nada Kahader, executive director of WESPAC Foundation, holds a sign during a rally outside the New York Power Authority's White Plains headquarters.

JOHN MEORE/THE JOURNAL NEWS

Solar savings help drive Foodlink work

Upgrade to cut \$200K in energy bills over 25 years

Steve Howe Rochester Democrat and Chronicle | USA TODAY NETWORK

The interior of Foodlink's headquarters on Mt. Read Boulevard is abuzz with activity, obscuring the stolid exterior of the former 3M film factory it occupies. • A new addition to the exterior of the building, though out of sight from the ground, will help power the goings-on inside, including the food storage, offices and kitchens. A new solar array will save the food bank as much as \$200,000 on its energy bills in the next 25 years.



An elevated view of the new solar installation on the roof of Foodlink's headquarters on Mount Read Boulevard.

Sustainability and food banking go hand in hand for Foodlink, in the vision of its founder, Tom Ferraro. Not only does the nonprofit feed thousands in the greater Rochester area, but it also diverts millions of pounds of food from landfills. The latest upgrades to the headquarters, acquired in 2022, continue with the same principles.

"We're doing everything when it comes to energy efficiency through new windows, new lighting, improved composting measures like our digester," said

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Study: Social media fraud barriers are easily bypassed

Raphael Satter
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – A central barrier to the creation of bogus social media accounts can be bypassed for as little as a few cents at a time, researchers at the University of Cambridge determined, a sign of just how low the barriers are to online disinformation efforts.

Digital platforms have a variety of

defenses against fake accounts and scammers, but a key one is the practice of sending a code via text message, or SMS, to a phone number. These activation texts are meant to ensure that each account is connected to a genuine phone, but researchers mapped out an array of SMS activation services that offer throwaway phone numbers, typically for less than 30 cents apiece.

The findings, published Dec. 11 in the

journal Science, show that a central roadblock to account fraud is easily bypassed, said one of the study's co-authors, Cambridge lecturer Jon Roozenbeek.

"The costs are absolutely trivial," he said.

The researchers said they collected a year's worth of data from four providers of on-demand text message verification – SMSActivate, 5Sim, SMSHub and

SMSPVA – to come up with figures for the costs associated with creating a fake account on various social media platforms across the globe.

SMS activation does not guarantee an account will not get blocked, but Roozenbeek, who researches propaganda, said he and his colleagues validated their findings by, in some cases,

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