

**Hudson Earth Week  
Renewable Energy Panel Discussion  
4/21/22**

**Notes by: Karen Farkas, EAC Chair**

**Panel Speakers:**

John Voyzey, CEO of [ForTec Medical](#)

Ken Nadsady, President and Founder of [AviSun Renewable Energy](#)

Casey Weinstein, State Representative - District 37

**Notes:**

ForTec spent \$342,000 to install about a 200 kW solar system on its roof when the new headquarters was built. It has about 580 solar panels.

“You do this to be good environmental stewards or you do it because it made financial sense,” Voyzey said. He said both were true.

He said the developer sized the system really well. “We produce exactly what we consumed over the four years - in the summer we overproduce and in the winter we underproduce,” he said. “We do not have batteries for storage and still do some buying and selling from the grid.”

The company was told the return on investment would occur in about five years but they suspected it would take eight to nine years. “Right now we are on pace to pay back the entire system in nine years and are delighted,” he said.

Nadsady started investigating solar in 2008, to learn how to design a system and how it works. He had the first solar panels in Hudson. He now installs on and off the grid systems for homeowners and commercial businesses.

About 20 homes in Hudson have solar, including Nadsady’s and Weinstein’s. Nadsady said a problem in Hudson is that homes are built with peaks on the roof and other design elements that make it difficult to find a large flat surface to install the panels.

He said other changes in solar are that solar cells are that cells are closer and more efficient. The amount of power per panel has doubled from 210 watts to 405 watts since 2008.

Nadsady said it is ideal to have an area of sun on your yard or roof. The sun produces about 1,000 watts per square meter. Solar makes economic sense even in cloudy Ohio because electric rates continue to climb.

Weinstein said one of his projects was when he was with Leadership Hudson and its project was to show solar can work in the city. The group raised \$72,000 for the solar panels on Barlow Community Center. When he was on Council he wanted to expand renewable energy and a net metering policy to sell back excess power.

He has a 10 kW array on his roof and two electric cars. The 10 kW is not enough and provides 60% over the course of the year.

The city just increased the size to 25kW and the city will allow batteries to store power. Weinstein said there are bills in Columbus to prevent HOA's from denying solar and to have more community solar co-ops.