



## Press Release

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### **Jockey Club, Sebonack First to Go All Solar with Club Car Golf Car Fleets**

AUGUSTA, GA (Aug. 6, 2009) – In the face of mounting energy costs, some courses are not standing idly by while their electric meters churn. The Jockey Club Kau Sai Chau Public Course in Hong Kong recently became the world’s first golf facility and the Sebonack Golf Club in Southampton, N.Y., the first U.S. golf club to power their entire golf car fleets with solar energy. Both courses retrofitted their existing fleets using the SolarDrive system, which is part of the Club Car Solutions Network.

A study of energy use by the Golf Resource Group recently concluded that most golf courses use between 250,000 and 5 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity in their annual operations. At the high end, that’s equivalent to the amount of electricity used in 278 2,500-square-foot houses, according to the report from the Phoenix-based research firm.

“Power costs are very expensive here on Long Island and are getting more expensive around the world,” said Michael Pascucci, owner of the Sebonack GC, which is ranked No. 7 in *Golfweek’s* 100 “Best Modern Courses” and No. 39 in *Golf Digests’s* “America’s 100 Greatest Golf Courses. “Why not take advantage of the free solar power we have on earth?”

But reducing the charging requirements for the club’s 40 golf cars and lowering its electric

bill isn't the only reason Pascucci retrofitted his fleet with solar canopies, which are sold as an option on Club Car golf cars.

"We penciled it out and concluded we were going to get our money back pretty easily," said Pascucci, who first saw the solar canopy system while playing golf with Ernie Els in Jupiter, Fla., last winter. "But even if the numbers weren't as strong as they are, I still would have done it."

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*The price of SolarDrive panels (normally \$2,700) often can be defrayed by approximately 30 percent with tax incentives. For information about tax credits and incentives when purchasing products that promote energy efficiency through solar technologies, go to [www.dsireusa.org/solar](http://www.dsireusa.org/solar).*

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Pascucci thinks Sebonack members will be impressed that their club is going green.

"I think it's really a positive thing for our members and their guests to see that they're not using any energy while they're riding around on the sun's power. It makes a statement," Pascucci said.

The SolarDrive-equipped golf cars capture and convert daylight into sufficient energy to power the vehicles year-round, even on cloudy days. Pascucci calls the system "a major industry innovation."

The solar-cell roof panels installed on 40 cars at Sebonack and on 205 cars at The Jockey Club Kau Sai Chau Public Golf Course were designed and engineered by SolarDrive, a Denmark-based firm specializing in off-grid, solar technology for mobile use. SolarDrive and Club Car entered a marketing alliance earlier this year.

"SolarDrive and Club Car have provided us with what we believe is a smart solution that makes both environmental sense and good business sense, too," said Cameron Halliday, general manager at The Jockey Club Kau Sai Chau, the only public golf course in Hong Kong.

The high-profile nature of Sebonack and Jockey Club, and their decisions to go all solar, are expected to lead other courses to evaluate the technology, according to Mike Read, marketing

director for Club Car's golf car category. "The need to conserve energy as a means of lowering costs combined with more widespread environmental awareness makes solar energy an attractive strategy for many courses," he said. "We think we'll see more courses here and in other parts of the world take a serious look at solar."

#### **About Club Car**

Club Car has been one of the most respected names in the golf industry for more than half a century. The company's dependable and efficient Precedent golf cars and Carryall Turf utility vehicles are integral to the successful operations of thousands of courses in the U.S. and around the world. The world's largest manufacturer of electric vehicles is also recognized as an innovation leader. The Visage Mobile Golf Information System is the latest in a long line of technical advances that improve the golfer's experience as well as help courses operate more efficiently. The Augusta, Ga.-based company, a division of Ingersoll Rand, is equally respected for the support it provides the game's leading associations and organizations, including the PGA of America, the NGCOA, GCSAA, CMAA, The First Tee and the Executive Women's Golf Association. For more information, go to [www.clubcar.com](http://www.clubcar.com) or [www.ingersollrand.com](http://www.ingersollrand.com).

#### **About SolarDrive**

SolarDrive is a Danish company that specializes in applied solar technology primarily for mobile use. It develops highly efficient solar products for electric vehicles and off-grid solar powered products. SolarDrive equipped vehicles are capable of transferring between 180-360 watts of energy to a vehicle's battery system. This results in carbon free charging and driving and considerable additional range between charges in typical applications. Financial benefits include: lower electricity costs, lower battery costs due to extended battery life through continuous charging and, at some courses, increased revenue opportunities from the improved rental capacity of the carts. For more information visit: [www.solardrive.com](http://www.solardrive.com)