

“The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding, go out to meet it.” ~ Thucydides

Prst. Std.
U.S. Postage Paid
Naugatuck, CT
#27

MIDDLEBURY

BEE · INTELLIGENCER

Volume V, No. 20

◆ INFORMING THE TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY, CONNECTICUT ◆

Friday, May 15, 2009



These solar panels stand along the eastern side of the Timex Group building. In all, 800 panels generate 285,439 kilowatt-hours of energy a year. (Cristina Commendatore photos)

Rep. Murphy Visits Timex

By **CRISTINA COMMENDATORE**

Timex employees took time out to discuss issues like the economy, energy and healthcare reform with Rep. Christopher Murphy (D-5) last Friday during his first visit to Timex Group in Middlebury.

During his meeting with employees, Murphy opened the floor to audience input. "The worst thing I've watched politicians do over time is pretend they know about something they don't," Murphy said. "My ability to do this job is through you. So individu-

ally you can make me a better member in Congress."

Among topics discussed were the economic stimulus package, overspending and investing money to reduce demands in electricity.

Last year, Timex installed 800 244-kilowatt solar panels to help the headquarters become more energy efficient. Bob LaPointe, director of global facilities management, said the panels supplement the building's power by 12 to 14 percent. "I think it's great to put in renewable energy," LaPointe said. "There are so many ways to get energy and



Rep. Christopher Murphy discusses issues with Timex Group employees in Middlebury last Friday.

utilize it." He said he would like to expand on the project if Timex acquires additional funding.

The project was \$2.5 million. A \$920,000 grant from the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund and tax credits covered some of the cost. The solar panels, over their 25-year life, will eliminate more than 6.6 million pounds of carbon di-

oxide, 28,000 pounds of sulfur dioxide and 11,000 pounds of nitrogen oxide traditional electricity sources would generate.

As an Energy and Commerce Committee member, Murphy said, "This is a model company in so many ways, from the egalitarian floor plan to its commitment to renewable energy."