

Employee Spotlight: Dip Smith, Senior Project Developer

When Dip Smith joined McClure in November 2022 as a Project Developer supporting Strategic Solutions, he brought a passion for learning, problem-solving, and making a meaningful impact. Today, as a Senior Project Developer, Dip plays a pivotal role in helping clients uncover renewable energy opportunities that reduce costs and support long-term sustainability goals.

Helping Clients Bring Solar Projects to Life

Dip's role focuses on guiding complex solar developments from concept to completion. Working closely with Account Executives to share the initial strategy, he helps identify opportunities, analyze utility usage, and design custom solar solutions tailored to each client's needs before handing them off to Project Managers to bring the build to life.

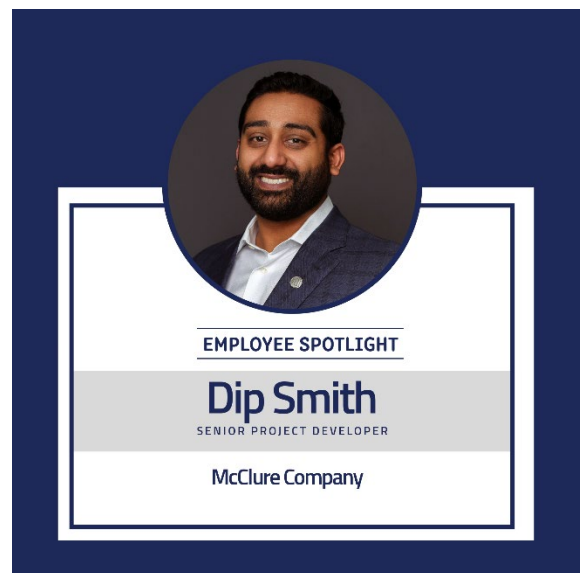
“When a client is interested in solar, our team jumps in to do the heavy lifting behind the scenes, Dip explained. “We evaluated client-owned) buildings and available lands to see what makes the most sense. We analyze electricity usage and costs, handle project estimating, and run through economical analyses. Most importantly, we help clients leverage funding programs, utility incentives and environmental attributes that benefit their students and budgets.”

One of his favorite parts of the job is seeing the entire development cycle materialize and knowing it creates a real impact for clients and the communities they serve.

Finding a Path Into Renewable Energy

Dip's journey into renewable energy sector was anything but traditional. After working in the hospitality industry, he relocated to the area in 2019 and began looking for a career change. Encouraged by family working in electrical infrastructure, he became involved in an energy savings pilot project that sparked his interest in the field.

The passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (tax credits), paired with rising electricity costs, further solidified his decision to dive headfirst in renewable energy.



"I didn't come in knowing everything," Dip said. "I'm so grateful for the opportunity McClure gave me to keep learning, adapting, and growing in this industry."

Navigating Industry Challenges

While renewable energy continues to experience massive momentum, navigating the path from design to commissioning comes with distinct hurdles. According to Dip, utility interconnections remain one of the biggest hurdles facing solar development today.

"Utility infrastructure and long timelines for interconnection can significantly affect project schedules," he explained. While engineering studies conducted by utility providers are essential for verifying the safety and reliability of the electrical grid, those reviews and potential system upgrades can add years to complete.

In addition to interconnection timelines, federal legislation and evolving regulations also influence project development and implementation.

Despite these challenges, Dip values the lessons learned from every project he works on.

"I can't pick just one project I'm most proud of," he said. "All of them have taught me lessons along the way about what works and what doesn't."

A Culture Built on Problem Solving

When asked what has kept him at McClure, Dip points to the company's culture and values.

"The company truly embodies its core values," he said. "The culture is dynamic, and McClure makes strong impacts in the community."

He particularly appreciates working alongside teammates who embrace challenges rather than avoid them.

"We are surrounded with a culture of collaboration, where people are willing to solve problems instead of run from them, is refreshing. McClure is great at solving complex problems, and that embodies our people. We're wired to solve problems."

Dip also credits his colleagues for helping shape his professional growth.

"Everyone I've encountered at McClure has positively impacted me. Everyone who has taken the time to have a conversation with me about the industry has helped me learn. You can meet someone new every day of the year here and learn something new."

Creating Lasting Impact

For Dip, successful renewable energy projects deliver both financial and environmental benefits.

"The financial impact and environmental impact are both important," he said.

One aspect of recent projects that particularly excites him is the incorporation of pollinator-friendly and native plants around solar installations, creating environmental value beyond energy production alone.

Looking ahead, Dip is energized by the growing national focus on energy infrastructure.

"What excites me most about the future of renewable energy is the continued spotlight on energy infrastructure and increasing grid demands from artificial intelligence, electric vehicles, and robotics."

Beyond the Office

Outside of work, Dip enjoys traveling, exploring new places, and creating memories with family and friends. Among all his travels, one destination stands out.

"My favorite place I've traveled is Masai Mara, Kenya."

Something coworkers may not know is that Dip was born in London before moving to York, Pennsylvania, in 1997.

And when it comes to beverages? The answer depends on the time of day.

"Coffee, tea, or an energy drink? All three."

Words to Live By

One piece of advice has stayed with Dip throughout his career:

"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take."

— Wayne Gretzky

It's a mindset that reflects his own professional journey: embracing opportunity, continuing to learn, and finding new ways to make an impact through renewable energy.

As McClure continues helping clients navigate the evolving energy landscape, Dip's commitment to learning, collaboration, and problem-solving helps drive projects that benefit both organizations and the communities they serve.