



Solar Energy for Your School

Pine River-Backus Schools

Get ready to energize your students' education!

Imagine this headline: "All Schools in Minnesota Use Solar Power."

Wouldn't it be amazing if solar energy powered the education of our state's 800,000+ students? It might not be so far off. Over 90 school districts in Minnesota already benefit from solar, and there has never been a better time to take advantage of clean energy opportunities. A dramatic drop in the cost of solar panels, combined with new financing choices, makes solar widely available.

WHY GO SOLAR?

1 Financial

The cost of solar panels has dropped 65% over the past decade, and schools can avoid the upfront investment and ongoing maintenance requirements through third-party ownership.

2 Educational

Access to solar allows students and teachers to connect STEM education with new technology on school grounds and with one of the fastest growing job markets in the state.

3 Environmental

Solar schools offset an estimated 1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually, equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions from nearly 221,000 cars.

4 Community Leadership

Schools are at the center of the community. A solar array is a great way to communicate sustainability values and inspire others.

Morris Area High School

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CleanEnergyResourceTeams.org/SolarSchools



CONSIDERATIONS

We help schools understand energy efficiency and solar energy options.

Our experts will help you figure out how to take the right steps towards clean, renewable energy. We can provide technical assistance on the programs and initiatives that will lead to energy efficiency, financial savings, community leadership, and STEM education curriculum to help students prepare for a clean energy future.

We can answer your questions and help you move forward!

CERTs has been working with schools to make solar a reality for years, and in the process, we developed unbiased tools and resources for you to use, free of charge. Our staff are here to help! Contact Peter Lindstrom: plindstr@umn.edu



Minnesota school solar projects at a glance



SOUTH ST. PAUL

Each day over 3,600 students fill the hallways and classrooms of South St. Paul Public Schools. In 2019, the school board approved adding solar to Kaposia Elementary. They got a contract in July and installed solar in 2020.



RED WING

Red Wing Public Schools covers up to 120% of its energy needs with a 6MW solar garden on their property. The energy is shared by their six schools and the community. Over 25 years the district will save \$7.7M on energy and earn \$1M in lease revenue.



CHISAGO LAKES

Chisago Lakes School District flipped the switch on five rooftop solar projects in the district along with a community solar subscription. Solar will not only save energy dollars, but also provide learning opportunities and help meet sustainability goals.



PINE RIVER-BACKUS

The field behind Pine River-Backus Schools is now home to a large solar array expected to cover about 80 percent of their electricity needs, at a discount to their typical electricity rates. It's also getting students thinking about clean energy careers.

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