

News Release

Reedsburg Utility Commission

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Reedsburg Utility adds solar projects

Electric customers in Reedsburg are benefitting from a new application of solar power in the city. The community-owned utility recently installed an array of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels at the Reedsburg Area High School.

Reedsburg Utility installed a dual axis tracker with a peak output of 3.584, providing approximately 6,000 kilowatt-hours of emissions-free electricity each year.

“It is our objective to be a model for the use of renewable energy,” said Jim Schieble, Energy Services Representative. “By supporting community-wide renewable projects, Reedsburg Utility is illustrating the practical use of renewable energy and enticing customers to do the same.”

Solar PV systems collect energy from sunlight and convert it into electricity, providing renewable, emissions-free energy. These highly visible projects demonstrate the technology, while educating the community on their benefits, operation and performance. The solar unit will provide education and student involvement for many years to come at RAHS, said Dave Mikonowicz, General Manager of Reedsburg Utility.

Reedsburg Utility pursued various grant opportunities, including funding from its power supplier WPPI Energy, to help fund the purchase and installation of the solar PV systems. The project is contracted through Prairie Solar Power & Light of Prairie Du Chien and became operational on March 30, 2009.

“We’re working hard to lead by example,” said Schieble. “The use of renewable energy is a simple step anyone can take to help create a cleaner energy future.”

A ribbon cutting will be held at the Reedsburg Area High School at 1:30pm on Friday, April 3rd. For more information, please contact Reedsburg Utility at 524-4381 or ruc@rucls.net.

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Reedsburg Utility is a member of WPPI Energy, a regional power company serving 50 customer-owned electric utilities. Through WPPI Energy, these public power utilities share resources and own generation facilities to provide reliable, affordable electricity to more than 190,000 homes and businesses in Wisconsin, Upper Michigan and Iowa. Visit online at www.wppienergy.org.