

MOUNDS VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT

SAVINGS, SUSTAINABILITY & EDUCATION

When Mike Cartwright, a Mounds View High School physics teacher, attended a renewable energy class at the University of Minnesota in 2014, he recognized the potential economic and educational opportunities solar energy could offer his school district. Four short years later and Mounds View is one of the most sustainable K-12 school districts in the state!

The district recently finished installing solar PV systems on the roofs of 13 school buildings. The projects are estimated to save the district nearly \$1 million in electricity costs over the next 25 years, while also enhancing student education and helping the district meet its sustainability goals.

“It’s a no-lose for the school district. We’re saving \$1 million on energy costs, we’re offsetting carbon, we can use it educationally, and it’s good public relations.” - Mike Cartwright



CONTINUED BENEFITS

New Energy Equity utilized a state program to install all 13 solar systems without any cost to the district. NEE financed the projects and will pass ownership on to Mounds View after 15 years. The electricity produced by the solar arrays goes onto the grid for use in the school and community. The school district receives a 10-20% discount on their electric bill for the life of the system.

**BUILDING CLEANER
ENERGY, LEAVING
BEHIND A BETTER WORLD.**

PROJECT DETAILS:



\$900,000
25 Year Savings



13 Schools
With Solar Arrays



520 kilowatts
Total System Size



618,800
Kilowatt hours per year

View our 250+
completed projects:



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Boulder, CO 80301



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ASK MIKE: BENEFITS & TIPS FOR SCHOOLS CONSIDERING SOLAR

BENEFITS I'VE COME ACROSS:

1. Saved over two million dollars in energy costs for the district, money that can be put into programming for students.
2. Provided science learning opportunities for students and promote curriculum development.
3. Helped to meet the district's sustainability goals.
4. Increased community awareness of the district's commitment to renewable energy and fiscal responsibility.
5. Demonstrated leadership to education providers.
6. Gained recognition. The district was given the Shoreview Clean Energy Award.
7. Created a Construction and Solar Energy Career Pathway program for interested students.
8. Fulfilled district's Renewable Energy Resolution committing to 100% renewable electricity by 2030.
9. Delivered on commitment to improve public health and to help tackle climate change.

TIPS FROM OUR EXPERIENCE:

1. Don't wait to take action!
2. Contact schools and installers who have had success with solar schools in the area.
3. Consider subscribing to a community solar garden.
4. Involve students!
5. Identify curriculum standards that can be covered using data from the solar array.
6. Plan to promote the benefits of the array to the school and community.
7. Look to organizations like CERTs for resources and assistance.

ABOUT MIKE



Mike Cartwright has been teaching physics at Mounds View High School for over 25 years. Mike saw the potential solar could bring to the school, and worked with New Energy Equity from beginning to completion to turn the potential into a reality.



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