

An excellent school is defined as one that establishes a collaborative learning environment, a strong curriculum, and a solid foundation for college and beyond. This cannot be done without reflecting a broad concern for sustainable, environmental values.

You may have already heard that across the US -hundreds of schools just like yours have begun taking a keen interest in the role that the sun plays in creating clean, renewable electricity. Beginning in the early 1990s, educational facilities began installing solar electric (PV) systems on their roofs. In doing so, they have established themselves as community innovators and showcases for solar technology.

Administrators and teachers are increasingly eager to learn how solar energy systems operate, and the impact they have in addressing climate change, reducing reliance on centralized fossil fuel power stations, and helping students learn about clean, renewable energy.

The increased interest in school-hosted PV systems seems to be driven by many things: Most notably, the desire to provide an exciting demonstration of the power of cutting edge technology and a reminder of the importance of practicing the values we preach.

More schools are electing to install PV systems as an expression of their commitment to a sustainable energy future, going one step beyond the recycling initiatives and earth groups that have, in the last few years, sprung up in schools across the country. As a result,

not for profit organizations, utilities, and state energy offices have come to understand and appreciate the market transforming ability of school-hosted PV systems as sustainable models and laboratories for learning. For example, the high-tech features of PV systems fit well with the growing importance that applied sciences receive in schools. PV systems offer an excellent means to study first-hand how electricity is produced, where energy comes from, and the physics, math, and public policies supporting an energy grid.

Did you know that right now there are grants available, just for schools like yours, to install learning-based PV systems for as little as no out of pocket costs?

American Renewable Energy -awarded "Renewable Energy Innovator, 2008"- is passionate about bringing distributed RE energy to Chicagoland schools. And to do this, we need your help! We have created a simple, no-cost renewable energy education program that makes distributed RE energy accessible and affordable to local schools. Even those on the tightest budgets!

- Free of cost, we will visit your site and determine your grant eligibility.
- Next, we write your grant proposal and secure the finances to fund your project
- Lastly, we design and build your RE energy system.

Don't delay. These grant opportunities may not be available for long. Other schools are already taking advantage of the benefits of demonstration PV systems and grant money is limited. Visit our website or e-mail us at antonia@americanrenewable.com to set up an on-site consultation. Help us put your school on the map; furthering the development of renewable education and active community-based efforts at environmental sustainability.