



NEWS RELEASE

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Dairyland Power Cooperative Provides *Solar for Schools*

La Crosse, WI— Three Western Wisconsin public schools will soon benefit from Dairyland Power Cooperative's *Solar for Schools* initiative. This summer, 12 kilowatt solar installations will be constructed on-site at Alma Area School (K-12), Cochrane-Fountain City School (K-12) and De Soto Area Middle & High School.

Dairyland issued a Request for Proposals for the projects in fall 2015, seeking an experienced contractor to procure, install and maintain a fixed-panel, pole-mounted solar system at each school. Regional contractor ABLE Energy Co. (River Falls, Wis.) will begin construction shortly, with plans for each solar installation to be operational by the start of the school term in fall 2016.

Renewable energy produced by the solar arrays will help power the schools, partially offsetting the current energy use by the facilities. All three schools are near Dairyland power plant facilities located within its cooperative service territory.

Each school will have access to online monitoring for teaching purposes; the Data Acquisition System will enable teachers and students to monitor the total and hourly output of the array, environmental benefits delivered and many other metrics.

"*Solar for Schools* is an exciting project for many reasons," said Brian Rude, Dairyland Vice President, External and Member Relations. "The solar arrays will be a great educational tool in the schools, in addition to the benefit of helping power the schools with renewable energy from the sun."

Dairyland's continuing commitment to solar energy

In February, Dairyland announced it had finalized agreements with two developers to purchase over 15 MW of renewable energy from multiple new utility-scale solar facilities in Wisconsin. Dairyland also purchases energy from major solar installations (Westby, Wis., Oronoco, Minn., and Galena, Ill.) and supports 10 member cooperative community solar installations, with more planned. In addition, there are 700 consumer-owned distributed generation solar installations located in Dairyland's service area.

With headquarters in La Crosse, Wis., Dairyland provides wholesale electricity to 25 member distribution cooperatives and 17 municipal utilities. A Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Dairyland's service area encompasses 62 counties in four states (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois). Dairyland's generation resources include coal, natural gas, hydro, solar, wind and landfill gas. For more information, visit www.DairylandPower.com.

