



The 276kW Notre Dame solar project consists of 836 ground-mounted photovoltaic panels. Each panel has an output of 330 watts.

The solar arrays will generate enough electricity to offset 95% of the school's annual energy consumption over the next 25-35 years.

The overall savings on electric bills is estimated at \$1,488,855 over the life of the system.

The amount of clean energy generated by Notre Dame each year compared to conventional utilities would be equivalent to:

- Growing 197,119 tree seedlings for ten years
- Taking 1,618 gas-fueled passenger cars off the road per year
 - Drivers driving 18,303,916 fewer miles

The project was funded by a group of investors who formed an LLC and implemented a Power Purchase Agreement with the school. This arrangement allows the school access to tax credits and depreciation benefits normally not available to a non tax-paying entity. Other financial benefits and rationale include:

- No upfront costs for Notre Dame
- Locked in predictable long-term electric rates
- No major fund-raising, bond issue or donations needed
- Virtually maintenance free
- Savings will be directed towards teacher salaries, computers, etc.
- Daily online monitoring available 24/7 to students and staff
- Ownership available to school at pennies on the dollar after 12-15 years
- Takes advantage of abundant green space
- Makes positive statement to community by helping save environment
- STEM Project opportunities for students
- Silver Cord hours earned by several Notre Dame students on installation

This project also serves as a positive response to Pope Francis' statements about the environment and His request for us to be good stewards of creation and to embrace alternative energy sources:



We know that technology based on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels – especially coal, but also oil and, to a lesser degree, gas – needs to be progressively replaced without delay.”



A recent Solar Foundation report found that the average price of a solar installation at schools has dropped 67% over the past ten years, and by 19% in 2016 alone. There are nearly 6,000 K-12 schools in the United States that use solar energy with a combined capacity of over 910 megawatts which is nearly double the total capacity installed at schools in 2014.

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