

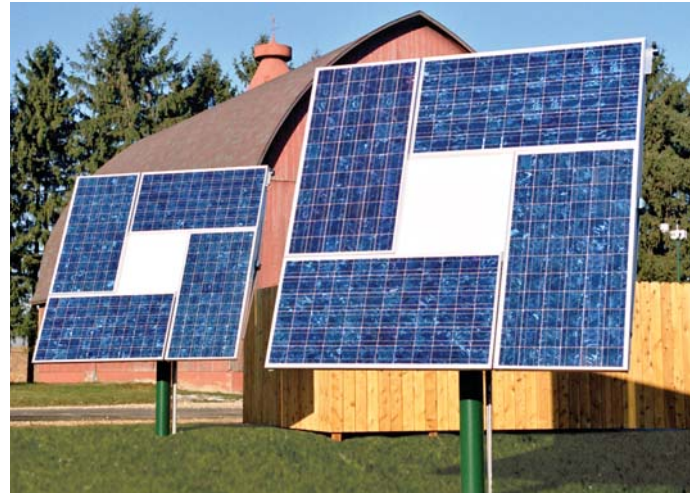
# Solar Sunflower Project - Lussier Family Heritage Center

The Lussier Family Heritage Center celebrates the history of our area and the importance of our natural resources. By taking time to appreciate our environment, we become aware of the need to protect it.

Energy use impacts our environment, affecting air and water quality. As our area grows we burn more fossil fuels to meet the increasing need for electricity. Using energy efficiently and developing clean power options can help to reduce the impacts.

Capturing energy produced by the sun is one option. Solar energy is clean energy; no emissions are released into the atmosphere. It also avoids the environmental effects of drilling for oil and gas and mining for coal.

The Solar Sunflower Project is a partnership between Dane County Parks and Madison Gas and Electric. We are working together to raise the visibility of solar energy and to provide data about its suitability in our area.



The electricity produced by the panels is fed into the local power system. It offsets power that would have been produced by power plants. Dane County is paid a percentage of the value of the electricity generated.

For more information call the MGE Home Energy Line at 252-7117 or visit [mge.com/solar](http://mge.com/solar).

## Project features

- Dual-axis tracking. The panels move from east to west throughout the day to track the sun. They also tilt up and down to adjust to the sun's position by season. This system generates 30% more energy than a nontracking system.
- Real-time system monitor. Many of the MGE solar systems, including the Lussier system, feed real-time data to [mge.com](http://mge.com). Students and others can use the data to learn about solar energy.

## Technical description

- The entire system is called an array. The array is made up of two panels. Each panel has four modules.
- The array is rated at 1,320 watts. Each panel is rated at 660 watts and each module at 165 watts.
- Average annual energy production is 2,000 kilowatt-hours.
- The panels are 8-foot square and center-mounted on 6-inch diameter steel posts. The panels are mounted 2 feet off the ground.