

# MN Solar for Schools program

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ✓ What is the Solar for Schools program?

**Solar for Schools** is a grant program designed to stimulate the installation of solar energy systems on Minnesota public schools – K-12 as well as state colleges and universities – while using the opportunity to integrate renewable energy use into school curriculum.

Solar for Schools provides **incentives for Minnesota public schools to install solar systems**, awarding eligible schools grants covering up to 40-70% of the cost to purchase and install a solar energy system. Additional program information is online at [mn.gov/solar4schools](http://mn.gov/solar4schools) and hashtag #MNSolar4Schools on social media.

### ✓ What are the benefits of a school going solar?

Solarizing your school provides benefits to students, teachers, schools, communities and the entire state including:

- **Energy savings** that can help free up vital operating budget funds.
- **Learning opportunities** for students based on real-time, on-site solar power generation.
- **Student exposure to clean energy careers**, often **supporting local jobs** in this growing industry.
- **Production of clean solar energy**, which plays an important role in **reducing greenhouse gas emissions** because solar power produces no emissions during generation itself.

### ✓ How do we know if solar is right for our school?

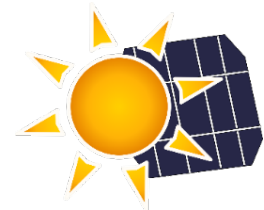
The Readiness Assessment portion of the Solar for Schools grant application is designed to help your school walk through the early stages to determine if solar is right for your school. Exploring your current electric costs, solar energy system sizes, potential installation sites, available budget and anticipated costs can all help you determine whether it makes sense to move forward.

The Department has partnered with Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) to provide [free general guidance and technical assistance](#) to applicants at any stage of the solar development process. Schools are encouraged to reach out to CERTs for unbiased technical and general assistance in preparation to meet the Readiness Assessment or Full Grant Application requirements by contacting Peter Lindstrom at [plindstr@umn.edu](mailto:plindstr@umn.edu) and 612-625-9634 or visit [www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/solarschools](http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/solarschools)

### ✓ How do we talk about our grant size and amount?

Schools are encouraged to explore the solar toolkit available on [mn.gov/solar4schools](http://mn.gov/solar4schools) for resources, templates, and guidance in promoting their solar installation. Below is an example for reference:

**Frostbite Public Schools was awarded a \$497,135 Solar for Schools grant.** The district will use the funds to install ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) systems at 5 district buildings, each sized at 49.6kWdc. Collectively, these systems are anticipated to save the district nearly \$700,000 in electricity expenses throughout their lifetime.



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