



# FAQs for Solar on Eau Claire Schools

## How much will this project cost the school district?

- This project will cost the school district nothing. The solar panels are being donated by the Couillard Solar Foundation. The remainder of the cost will be covered by private donations.

## What ongoing maintenance will be needed?

- Solar arrays tend to need very little maintenance; however, a long-term maintenance agreement for both North and Memorial's solar arrays is being donated as part of this project.

## Have the school buildings been studied to see if they are suitable for solar arrays?

- Yes, both buildings have had engineering studies done, and both have been found to be excellent sites for solar arrays.
- Building roofs in Wisconsin must support a snow load of at least 50 lbs. per square foot. Typically, building roofs are designed to support at least 80-100 lbs. Solar arrays typically add about 3 to 3-1/2 lbs. per square foot. Therefore, the weight of the solar arrays will have little impact on the roofs' structural integrity.
- This project will utilize the most common array type called ballast mounting and sits on the roof surface. It is held in place by many small weights. The great majority of commercial, industrial and institutional roof-top solar PV arrays are of this type and have proven to be the best design over many years of experience.

## How will the solar panels withstand Wisconsin weather?

- **Wind:** All solar arrays are engineered to be able to withstand wind loads equal to or in excess of building codes; this is greater than 90 MPH.
- **Hail:** The donated solar panels are made with shatter-proof glass and rarely break, but if they do, they are under warranty.
- **Snow:** Solar panels will not produce electricity when covered in thick snow. That said, when the sun comes out and or the temperature goes up solar panels will shed a snow load, and this is how most large roof-top solar arrays are managed. The amount of solar production lost to snow load in Wisconsin is generally about 3-5%.
- **Clouds:** Solar arrays are almost always connected to a large utility grid. During the middle of sunny days, they produce most of their electricity. At night or in very dark weather the buildings draw from the grid.
- **Linear Performance:** After 25 years, they will still be producing at least 80% of their original output.
- Wisconsin is dark so much of the time. How can this be a good area for solar? Wisconsin actually has a very practical amount of sun for solar.

## What is the savings for the school district by adding the solar panels?

- The school district will save \$20,000 annually. It will incur little to no expense with this project, so the arrays begin to return value to the ECASD immediately after installation.



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## When the panels are worn out after 20 years how are they replaced and recycled?

- The panels do not wear out after 20 years. They are warranted for 20-25 years against failure and defect and will still be producing at least 80% of their original rated wattage.
- All equipment for the arrays will be industry standard, new, and of the highest rated quality.

## What is the educational and career component for the students?

- Students will be able to monitor performance of all aspects of these solar arrays for use in their science, technology, engineering, and math classes (STEM).
- Promote career awareness and occupational pathway links with CVTC Energy Education Center.

## What happens if all the funds for the Solar on Eau Claire Schools project are inadequate?

- The project size will be reduced to match the amount of money raised.
- If more than enough money is raised the excess will go to fund solar education.

## For more information visit:

- [www.couillardsolarfoundation.org](http://www.couillardsolarfoundation.org)
- [www.midwestrenew.org](http://www.midwestrenew.org)
- [www.renewwisconsin.org](http://www.renewwisconsin.org)

## Solar on Eau Claire Schools

- Education
- Career awareness
- Transition to renewable energy
- Shared community work towards a clean, sustainable environment.

# "Solar on Eau Claire Schools" Project Launches Campaign to Install Solar Panels on North and Memorial High Schools

## Press Briefing

Tuesday, 12/17/2019

10:30-11:00 a.m.

Eau Claire Area School District Administration Building

500 Main St, Eau Claire, WI 54701

## AGENDA

<b>Welcome (2 min)</b> .....	<b>Sarah French</b> , <i>Executive Director</i> Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation
<b>District Vision (3 min)</b> .....	<b>Mary Ann Hardebeck</b> , <i>Superintendent</i> Eau Claire Area School District
<b>Renewable Energy Opportunity for Students (3 min)</b> .....	<b>Steve and Ellen Terwilliger</b> , Co-Chairs, Fundraising Committee for Solar on Eau Claire Schools Fund of ECPSF
<b>Renewable Energy Value for Schools (3 min)</b> .....	<b>Cal Couillard</b> , Couillard Solar Foundation Founder, Memorial High School alumnus
<b>District Environmental Responsibility and Gratitude (3 min)</b> .....	<b>Dr. Eric Torres</b> , <i>President</i> , Board of Education for Eau Claire Area School District
<b>Closing Remarks (1 min)</b> .....	<b>Jim McDougall</b> , <i>Vice Chair</i> , Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation Board of Trustees

## Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation

**Mission:** Dedicated to promoting education by fostering supportive relationships with the Eau Claire Area School District and the community; raising funds to provide learning opportunities for students, teachers and staff; and awarding grants for value-added projects.



## Eau Claire Area School District

**Mission:** To inspire and prepare our students to live creative, fulfilling and responsible lives.

**Vision:** We challenge minds, build relationships and nurture individual growth to prepare all students for post-secondary success.

