Hi all,

We’re in the very early stages of considering a solar project here at Peter White Public Library, if you have solar at your library, I’d love to hear about it! Install – power production. Would you do it again?

Also, is anyone is aware of grant funding for solar power projects at libraries/local governmental entities?

Happy St Patty’s day!

Here in the UP, we’re having our usual snowstorm to celebrate.

😊  
Andrea

YDL opened our new Superior branch library in mid-November.  It has a 43kw solar array -- quite large.  It was a lot of work to make it happen, but we are delighted with the results as well as the educational opportunity it provides for our community.  There is a local non-profit called [Solar Ypsi](https://www.solarypsi.org/) that helped us a ton. (They have a page full of typos about our project here:  <https://www.solarypsi.org/installations/SuperiorLibrary> LOL.) Our architect and construction manager also learned a lot working with them.  There is a [live weblink](https://monitoringpublic.solaredge.com/solaredge-web/p/kiosk?guid=e38bf5a3-9d1b-4435-9d9f-0c4ed86e7800) we post on a rotating digital display that shows exactly how much power is being generated on a given day -- it's pretty cool.  And we also have had Solar Ypsi present programs in the new facility.

We had a private donor give $25K toward the solar installation; overall costs for it were around $100K. EBSCO offers a solar grant program which we applied for, but it is international and highly competitive, and we knew we were unlikely to receive it.

According to our architect there is a new federal program that we would have qualified for if our project had taken a few months longer.  Basically, if you are tax exempt, in the past you didn't see any real benefit for projects like this, where everything available from the government was tax rebates.  With the new program, my understanding is that you DO get to apply to see that money back.  I don't have the details but I will see the architect on Tuesday and can find out the name of the program if you want; just let me know.

Very exciting!  Good luck,

Lisa

EBSCO Solar is a grant program specifically for libraries who want to go solar. I saw them present at Conference and it looked like a great program. <https://www.ebsco.com/solar>

We used Michigan Saves to get a low interest rate loan to add insulation to our house. They provide loans for all sorts of projects using green energy, so I think they might know of sources for funding even if you don’t use them to get a loan.

<https://michigansaves.org/>

I’d also contact your state and federal representatives.

Glad to hear you’re looking into this!

Rachel Pooley

You may want to try one of these:

<https://www.grants.gov/search-grants.html?agencyCode=DOE> – Local government entities and/or non-profits which are **not** 501(c)(3) entities are eligible. Grant application Due June 28, 2023

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency-improvement-guaranteed-loans/mi#to-apply>

It’s a USDA grant – it says it is for “Rural mall businesses” but it doesn’t really define what a rural small business is and if a public library would qualify. I read through the regulations and it is hard to tell – other programs by this same agency do name non profit and government entities, so it may be a longshot – but worth asking about. The library is in an eligible geographic area for the program – but the timeline is tight – March 31.

Good luck! It’s a great idea!

Clare

I'd check with local sustainability groups who have solar panels, or businesses, to see if they received any grants and from where.

Blair

Check Consumers Energy (or local energy company) for grants/energy saving incentives.  I know Consumers offers LED and furnace rebates.

Good luck.  Enjoy your St. Patrick’s day snow.

Nannette Pretzer, Director

St. Charles District Library

Hi Andrea,

We are working on an expansion/renovation project and are in the very beginning stages. Our architects tell us there is federal funding in the Inflation Reduction Act (green energy portion of the act) that is available for nonprofits and government entities. There will be up to 33% of the cost of a green energy project available. The difference is, normally the Feds will give a tax credit to people and businesses that participate in programs like this, but since organizations like ours don't pay taxes they will be giving direct payments. Our architects are waiting on the Feds to start the program and get more details.

We will be looking at solar panels and geothermal heating and cooling systems.

Mark

We have been considering this in Charlevoix too but as we plan to put it on our roof, we were advised to replace the roof and our air handling units first as we planned on doing both in the next five years. I will say that our solar estimate from a TC company has changed from $300,000 eight years ago to about $150,000 - $200,000 last year which is pretty amazing.

I realize that isn’t all that helpful but we plan to pursue [this grant](https://www.ebsco.com/solar) when we are ready. We also talked to our local energy company and they mentioned that there are government programs out there but that they can be hard to wade through and that sometimes it is worth hiring someone from a solar firm for that work specifically. We have not done that though so I can’t speak to how it might work.

Sleeting here in Charlevoix which is par for the course.

Happy St. Pattys.

Ryan Deery