

Learning About Solar Power at Ashwaubenon High School – Thanks to a generous donation of solar panels by Wisconsin Public Service, the Tech Ed and Science departments at AHS will institute a new solar panel lab this year in the high school greenhouse. The Foundation granted funds to purchase a voltage converter and several storage batteries to power the newly built greenhouse, and to develop a teaching station. The project will allow the teaching of solar power in a real life application.

Thanks to the Foundation, the project was able to secure the donation of eight solar panels from WPS. During the year, four will be hooked up to power the greenhouse by tech ed students, and the other four will be used for instructional purposes in both physics and tech ed classes.

The existing greenhouse is being re-built in order to make it more solid. It will then be used for starting plants in the spring and extending the season in the fall, mostly by the conservation class. In addition to using solar power to light the greenhouse, eventually solar energy will heat the greenhouse. The hope is to add a wind generator at some future point.

Once the panels are on, it will allow for expanded use of the greenhouse, where it will be used by biology students for labs, by physics students to measure power output, and by tech ed students to learn proper installation techniques. After 4 years it is anticipated that almost all students will have had some exposure to alternative energy options.



Solar panel caption: In early June, physics teacher John Fischer was joined by the student SolarWise team of Austin Kudulski, Dat Lee, Riley Hacker, Joey Larsen, and conservation teacher Dan Newel for the donation of solar panels from Wisconsin Public Service. With additional funds from the Ashwaubenon Education Foundation, supplies are being purchased to turn the school's greenhouse into a station to learn about alternative energy options.