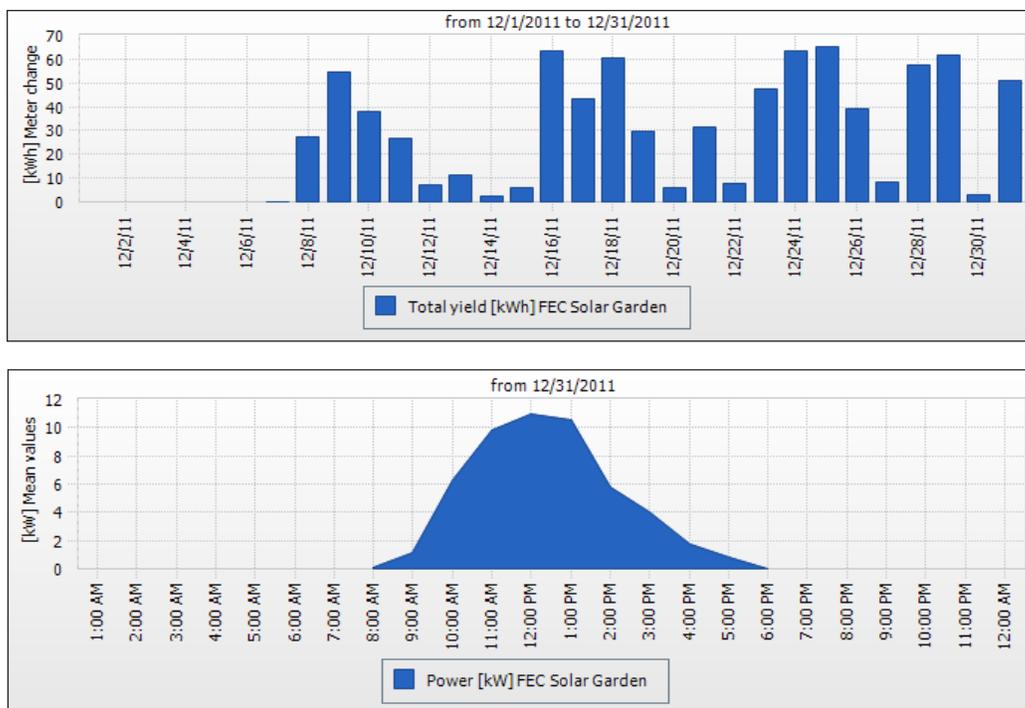


The sunny days in December -- and so far this month -- have been good for solar energy production. If you're interested in how much energy the solar garden is producing, you can now track that online. Here's how:

Go to www.feckalona.com. On the left side of the screen, under Renewable Energy, click **View Production Data**. This takes you to the FEC Solar Garden data at the Sunny Portal website. Choose **Energy and Power** to track the solar garden's energy production for the day, month or year.

Here are screen shots for the month of December (we didn't start tracking data until the 8th of the month) and for the last day of the month:



According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the average daily electricity consumption for an Iowa home is approximately 30 kWhrs. As the top chart shows, our solar garden produces a little over 60 kWhrs on a sunny day in December -- enough to power two homes. From a different perspective, FEC estimates its households consume an average of 1 kW at any time (much less in energy efficient households). During peak December production, the solar garden generates about 11 kW (bottom graph) -- enough to power 11 homes.

A couple notes:

- Instead of navigating to the online solar garden data, Sunny Portal can send it, daily, to your e-mail address. If you'd like to track the data that way, call the FEC office and we'll put your e-mail address on the mailing list.
- You might have noticed the December bill had the usual \$3 Solar Garden Credit, instead of credit for actual production. That's due to "technical difficulties" with our billing system. We might have it figured out next month, or we may wait until March, when we'll be using a new billing system. (We'll *definitely* have it worked out before the days get long enough for actual production to exceed the \$3 credit!)