

SOLAR GARDEN UPDATE AND OFFER

Since last November, the FEC Community Solar Garden, in Frytown, has been generating clean, local power for co-op customers. It's also been generating a lot of interest statewide, as other cooperatives look to FEC's model for bringing locally-produced, renewable energy online.

The solar garden currently has 72 modules in place. 60 cooperative members took advantage of the initial solar module offer last fall, and have received credit for their module's energy production each month since. Twelve additional modules were recently added -- purchased by West Union Mennonite Church.

Last month's sunny days allowed the solar garden to have its best production month yet. Module owners received a \$4.68 credit per module, and the total amount of power produced by the solar garden helped keep FEC's seasonal peak demand down. (See reverse side for information about the importance of reducing peak demand.)

The solar garden has proven to be a *reliable and affordable* way for FEC members to invest in solar. Adding this local power to the grid keeps a portion of your monthly payment in the community and helps keep electric rates steady.

FEC is committed to generating local power and is now expanding the solar garden ...

**20 230-watt modules are currently being offered
at a 25% savings!**

\$375 PER MODULE
(including inverter)

This offer is available to all FEC members on a first-come, first-served basis. Members may purchase up to five modules. FEC will provide the mounts, transformers, insurance and labor.

You purchase the solar modules; FEC does the rest. As soon as your module begins generating electricity, FEC will collect the power, put it on the grid, and credit your monthly bill for the retail value of the power (\$0.125/kWhr). This rate will rise as retail rates rise. Your brand-name module will generate power for at least 30-40 years.

- Average monthly credit (approximate): \$3.15
- Member owns actual module. Modules can be resold to FEC at a depreciated rate if member moves out of FEC service area.

Call Farmers Electric at 683-2510 with questions or to reserve your module(s).



Twelve, grid-tied solar arrays (six modules per array) are now producing power at the FEC Solar Garden. Energy production can be monitored online. Visit www.feckalona.com and click "View Production Data" in the left column.

High demand for electricity on summer afternoons affects FEC's wholesale power rate

The amount of electricity you use on hot, summer afternoons has a significant impact on the price Farmers Electric pays for power much of the year. Here's how it works:

Two major factors affect the wholesale rate FEC pays for electricity: the price of fuel to generate power (mostly coal and natural gas), and the local demand for power. Our seasonal wholesale rate is based on the amount of electricity FEC customers use during "peak demand" – typically mid-afternoon hours on hot, summer days.

At FEC, one peak hour of usage on one hot, summer day can increase our wholesale power costs up to \$25,000 for a six-month period.

Eventually these higher costs get passed on to our members, so please help us take control of power costs by paying **close attention** to the amount of electricity you use during hot summer afternoons and evenings.

- Remember to keep your air conditioner running efficiently by cleaning or changing filters regularly.
- Consider turning up your thermostat a degree or two.
- Close south and west curtains and try to use fans as much as possible late in the day.
- Delay the use of major appliances – especially heat-generating appliances like ovens, dishwashers, washing machines and clothes dryers –until off-peak hours.
- Turn off lights and save household projects like vacuuming, ironing and running power tools for off-peak hours.
- Postpone hot water usage.
- Water gardens in the morning to reduce well pump use during peak hours.

Visit www.energysavers.gov/seasonal/tips_summer.html for more summer power-saving tips.

Remember ... every watt saved on a hot, August afternoon is a valuable savings and will help keep power costs down for all co-op members.

Solar Garden helps during peak demand

