

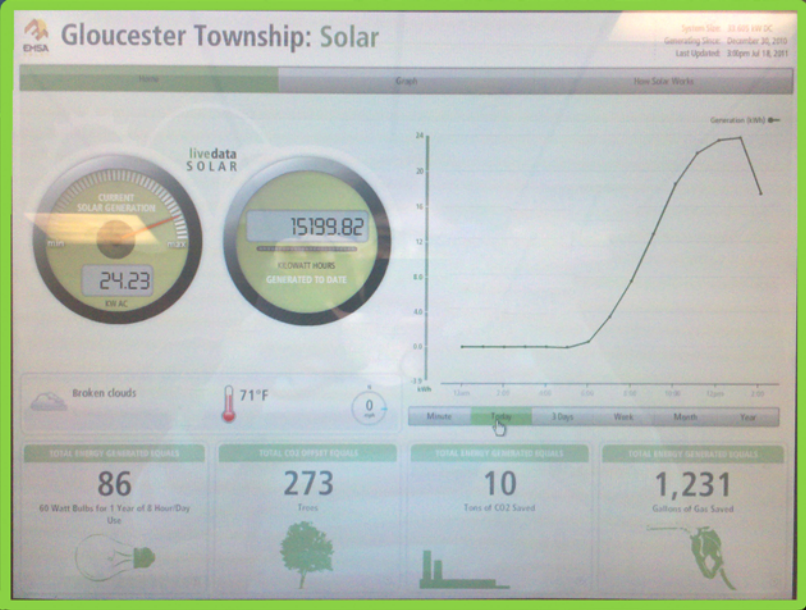
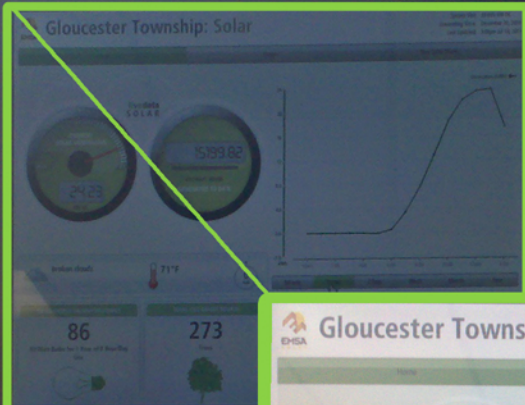
The solar panels were announced to the public in several ways. In addition to a kiosk in the municipal building, a sign is also outside of the building proudly telling passersby that it is powered by solar energy. News of the solar panel installation was also published in the tri-annual newsletter sent to all residents of Gloucester Township, and in the Gloucester Township Patch—an online news website—to name a couple of outlets. The solar panels were also publicly announced during council meetings and other events.

Gloucester Township's new solar panels are accompanied by a kiosk in the front lobby. The display is an interactive touch screen that demonstrates how solar power works and gathers power data generated from the panels.

The kiosk educates the public on how the solar power begins, starting with the sun, it also describes how the sun is absorbed by the solar modules, and how it is converted into usable energy.

Furthermore, the kiosk describes how the solar panel works, and it also displays what has been generated to date. As the kiosk is an interactive display, anyone can view generated power data in a customizable bar or line graph with multiple options.

Furthermore, the foyer kiosk paints a picture of what the solar panel has done for the environment. For example, it displays the total number of gallons of gas saved by switching to solar power, total energy generated which equals 60-watt bulbs for one year of everyday use, and the number of tons of CO₂ saved through this alternative energy method.



GloucesterTownshipPatch

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Solar Panels to Light Up Municipal Building

Installation is under way at the Chews Landing Road facility.

By [Sean McCullen](#)

[Email the author](#)

December 9, 2010

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It should only be a few more weeks before the municipal building is getting its energy directly from that bright yellow ball in the sky.

The installation of solar panels on the roof of the Chews Landing Road municipal building recently got under way.

"I think we're definitely at the forefront on this. It's always great to be the leader," Councilwoman Michelle Gentek said.

Not only are solar panels a part of the so-called "green" movement, government officials point to the savings the solar energy will bring the township.

"It's part of our continuing effort to reduce costs in municipal government," Mayor David Mayer said.

One estimate shows the township will save \$4,900 per year by going to solar energy at the municipal building.

But that's not where the real financial benefit comes in to play for the township and its residents.

"The exciting part is this is going to generate money," Gentek said.

The township can sell energy credits, known as Solar Renewable Energy Credits, as a result of installing solar panels on the municipal building's roof.

At the current rate of \$630 per credit, the township stands to make \$25,800 per year, according to Township Engineer John Cantwell, of Remington & Vernick.

The total cost of the solar-panel project is about \$238,000. A federal grant for \$211,000, part of the economic stimulus package money that made its way to New Jersey, will cover the majority of the project's cost.

Mayer noted officials are not stopping at solar panels when it comes to their effort to maximize energy use and cut energy costs.

An audit of six township-owned buildings, including the municipal building, generated more efficient ways to use lighting and windows.

Also, the township has installed energy-efficient, longer-lasting LED bulbs in traffic lights and is in the process of developing an energy master plan—similar to the tool communities use to guide future development—as part of the Sustainable Jersey program.

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