



Ypsilanti Food Cooperative  
312 N. River Street  
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198  
734-483-1354  
Grant PSC-08-31

November 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008

**Complete Task**

- 15% Expansion of Solar installation at Cooperative
- 15% Installation of Solar panels at City Hall
- 10% Utility meter reading program
- 15% Building of solar.ypsi.com website
- 20% Solar educational outreach

**Progress over the past two months**

With all approvals behind us, we spent the past two months making the final drawing of the rack that will be needed for City Hall and got a quote for the solar panels and other equipment.

Recall that the HDC required us to get a structural analysis of how we are going to mount the panels to the back wall. The structural analysis approved our design with a few small changes. Since the engineering company did not make a final drawing, we hired a local contractor, Gary Tuner, to finish this work and make the final drawing. The drawing will be posted to our solar.ypsi.com web site once it can be scanned.

Again, with all approvals in place, we went forward with purchasing the solar panels and inverters. We wrote a letter requesting a quote for a total of 49 panels, 3 inverters, 3 combination/switch boxes, 3 lighting arrestors, wire, and installation instructions. We are working with two grants from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, so we combined the material needed for both solar projects into one request for quotes.

The letter was sent to 5 local renewable energy companies. Four of these companies contacted us by phone and/or email saying that they would respond and send us a quote. However, we only received 2 quotes in the mail. Both quotes were very similar, and we choose the quote from S.U.R. Energy because it was slightly cheaper and offered a bit larger wattage panel. We have contacted S.U.R. Energy to let them know we would like to purchase the solar material from them, and will put in our formal purchase order along with a partial payment at the beginning of the year.

On January 2nd we will place the order. The delivery will take a month or two, so we are on track for an installation of both systems in the spring.

The website and meter reading program had no real progress this period.

We continue to promote the project and educate the community about energy and solar power. We were interviewed for an article in the Crazy Wisdom Community Journal (<http://www.crazywisdom.net/>) and are in the current issue in print. We are also making arrangements to give a solar presentation at the Crazy Wisdom Bookstore on January 30, 2009.

We were updating our solar presentation and requested an updated version of the “US Energy Flow” graph from Lawrence Livermore National Labs. They sent us the graph for 2006 and we were able to get it posted to a local blog and added into our presentation. You can find the graph here (<http://markmaynard.com/index.php?s=energy+use+united+states&sentence=AND&submit=Search>)

We continue to look for other community groups to give solar presentations to.

### **Anticipated energy saving**

The Cooperative and City Hall will not see any energy savings until the solar panels are online. Once the utility meter-reading program is working, we'll be able to see the energy delivery to the buildings and any energy conservation.

### **Expenditures compared to budget**

We budgeted \$3,800 for the structural analysis. Fitzpatrick Engineering billed us for \$2093.44 for this work last period. We are spending an additional \$100.00 with local contractor Gary Turner to make the final drawing of the design. This brings the total for structural analysis to \$2193.44, which is \$1606.65 under budget for this task.

### **Noteworthy Accomplishments**

Getting published in the Crazy Wisdom Community Journal.

Getting a solid quote for the solar panels and other equipment.

### **Risk to the project**

The solar panels, inverters, and other equipment quote is about \$1000 higher than what we had budgeted. We anticipate covering this over budget task with the savings from being under budget on the structural analysis.

### **Deviations from the Statement of Work**

None.

### **Money Spent in the Past Two Months**

\$100.00 for final drawing of the solar panel rack needed for the back of City Hall.