



# Arkansas school solar energy

How are solar panels saving Arkansas schools money?

"We were the first school district in the state of Arkansas to invest in solar panels," Renihan says. Together, the solar power and energy efficiency improvements are saving the district more than 0,000 a year. Along with other cost-cutting measures and state funding, those savings have helped raise teacher pay across the district.

Which Arkansas schools are going solar?

In Arkansas, the Batesville school district became the first in the state to go solar after a Republican-sponsored bill passed in 2018 that permitted both third party solar ownership and increased solar capacity. The bill had bipartisan support, along with heavy backing from Walmart, which is headquartered there.

What solar energy programs are available in Arkansas?

Here is an overview of the available solar energy programs in the state of Arkansas: The Rural Energy for America (REAP) program offers loan financing and grant funding for renewable energy systems or energy efficiency upgrades. Agricultural producers and rural small businesses are eligible for REAP funding.

How did the school district reduce its energy costs?

To reduce its energy costs, the district installed thousands of LED lights, replaced windows and HVAC units, sealed leaks, and improved building insulation. And it installed almost 1,500 solar panels that now generate about half of the district's electricity.

Should schools use solar power?

That means that about 5.3 million students now attend schools with solar, representing an 81% increase since 2014. Also notable was the organization's conclusion that if every U.S. public school used 100% solar power, the education system could drive emissions reductions that would be equivalent to closing 18 coal-fired power plants.

Is solar coming out of school budgets?

"That means more than three-quarters of that solar on schools is not coming out of school budgets-- it's getting paid for by a developer who owns, installs and maintains the solar energy system," said Tish Tablan, a Generation 180 program director.

Generation180 is a non-profit organization that champions green energy. The group's 2019 report indicates that about 16% of U.S. school districts had installed solar panels with a capacity to ...

Here are the specific ins and outs of solar energy in Arkansas. According to SunPower, the state of Arkansas has an ideal climate for solar power. "The state of Arkansas enjoys a warm ...

So Hester in 2018 partnered with Entegrity, an Arkansas-based solar company, to put 1,500 solar panels on



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school land, which is plentiful, and well as above the bus stops and the entrance to the school. He also had the schools made more energy efficient. (Some 25% of buildings in the US don't even have insulation.)

Scenic Hill Solar is the largest Arkansas-headquartered solar power developer and the 5th largest commercial and industrial solar developer in the U.S., according to Solar Power World. Scenic Hill Solar provides commercial, industrial, government, and municipal utility clients with clean electricity, reduced energy prices, and long-term ...

Amity, Arkansas Pop. 723. The Centerpoint School District has partnered with Scenic Hill Solar to build a 1.04 megawatt solar power plant that will be used to power 100% of the school district's operations. The power plant is expected to save the school district around \$40,000 annually. Over 2,500 solar panels will produce more than 44.29 ...

"We became the first solar project and the largest energy efficiency project in the state," said Hester. The district partnered with the central Arkansas based company Entegriety in 2018 and ...

Arkansas School District Goes Solar And spends the savings on upping teachers pay. ... The Batesville School District joins a growing number of schools turning to solar energy to reduce costs, lower global emissions, and make up budget shortages. As of 2019, 5.3 million students attend schools powered, at least in part, by solar energy. ...

Johnson Controls of Little Rock and Greenbrier schools are on the cusp of a \$13 million project to give the district Arkansas' largest public entity-owned solar plant, new energy efficiency systems and "the cherry on top," a high school pipeline to solar industry jobs.

An Arkansas school district installed solar panels and the money it's saving on electric bills is going directly back into teachers' pockets. 1 weather alerts 1 closings/delays. ... An Arkansas school district turned energy savings from solar panels into teacher raises. Posted .

Transcript. JILL ANDERSON: I am Jill Anderson. This is the Harvard EdCast. Michael Hester knows school green initiatives pay off and transcend what divides us. He's the superintendent of Batesville Public ...

Entegriety has installed a 1.36-MW tracking system for Cedar Ridge Schools and the Midland School District in Arkansas. The solar array unveiling was attended by students, staff, policymakers and solar sheep, who will maintain the grounds. CRS and MSD became the first districts in the state to utilize co-located solar energy technology after signing a solar services ...

Arkansas State Solar Policy Resources. Arkansas Public Service Commission - Learn about the governing body that regulates the electricity rates and services of Arkansas public utilities. Arkansas Renewable Energy Association. Arkansas State Legislature - Track pending legislation affecting solar energy, locate and contact individual legislators, and stay up to date on current ...



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Going to clean energy paid off in an enormous way for a school in rural Arkansas. ... Solar panel saves Arkansas school enough for teachers get up to \$15K in raises ... In a small rural town in ...

To learn more about all the benefits associated with solar and schools, please consult our in-depth article: [Solar For Schools & Universities: Benefits & Costs; Solar Projects in Arkansas Schools](#). A number of educational facilities in Arkansas are already taking advantage of the efficient, cost-saving benefits of solar energy.

The Solar Training Network addresses a critical need for high-quality, local, accessible training in solar installation and related skills. It was established under the Solar Training and Education for Professionals (STEP) funding program in 2016 and is administered by The Solar Foundation. The Network allows for greater connection between solar employers, trainers and training ...

The Batesville School District in Arkansas switched to solar power as a way to save money on energy consumption. In three years, the district recovered from budget deficit and now has a \$1.8 million surplus.

If you have personal or business goals involving renewable energy sourcing, but your budget or business model does not permit you to build and maintain your own solar project, consider tapping into the state's largest solar project with Entergy Arkansas' Solar Energy Option. Entergy Arkansas purchases 81 MW of solar energy from Stuttgart ...

Education officials in El Dorado, Arkansas, are celebrating a new solar energy system that could save the community up to \$3 million over the lifetime of the project. El Dorado School District (ESD) School Board and faculty members gathered to "Flip the Switch" on a newly constructed 1.75 MWac solar array in the community. The project will ...

In Batesville, Arkansas, just 17 miles west of the state's largest coal-fired power plant, a solar array at the local high school is having an unconventional impact: boosting teachers' pay. In 2017, energy efficiency company Entegriy conducted an energy audit of the Batesville School District, which currently comprises Batesville High School and five other

The law allows third-party financing for those looking to use but not own solar energy (such as city government, schools, etc.) and increased the allowed generating capacity for commercial solar systems from 1000 kilowatts to 1 megawatt.

Solar energy adoption has gained significant momentum within the AEPC Program, contributing to substantial energy savings and a greener future for Arkansas. With 19 public entities incorporating solar arrays into their energy cost-savings projects, the program has witnessed the deployment of nearly 38 megawatts of photovoltaics across the state.



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In two years alone, the district has already saved upward of \$1-million thanks to the 100+ solar panels on school property. BATESVILLE, Ark. -- Batesville School District is ...

Currently the largest solar installation in any school district in Arkansas, Batesville's 1,483 solar panels generate about half of the district's electricity needs and provide a savings of nearly \$100,000 per year. The teachers were also asked to contribute to the savings by conserving energy in the buildings.

The Little Rock School Board on Thursday unanimously approved a plan to add solar energy to the mix of the district's utility resources as a way to reduce costs by \$4.5 million to \$7 million over ...

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Cedar Ridge Schools and Midland School District of Arkansas became the first districts in the state to utilize co-located solar energy technology after signing a solar services agreement with Entegriety. With this new option, the districts shared a common site and spread fixed costs, resulting in lower solar service rates for each school district.

Power companies strike back. Schools in Batesville, Little Rock and elsewhere will be grandfathered into the 1-to-1 net metering rate even after Sept. 30, but new solar projects ...

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