



Ypsilanti Food Cooperative Bakery
312 N. River Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-483-1354
Grant PSC-09-27

October 1 2008 through November 30, 2008

Complete Task

- 5% Installation of Solar panels at Bakery
- 5% Utility meter reading program
- 5% Building of solar.ypsi.com website
- 10% Solar educational outreach

Progress over the past two months

Progress has been good for the project over the past two months. Corinne and I went before the Ypsilanti Historic District Commission (HDC) to ask for approval for another solar project and while we were there we presented a study item to ask for input for installing the 30 panels on the Cooperative's Bakery. The HDC informally approved our design of putting a 2x15 array on the roof.

cityofypsilanti.com/boards/bd_historic/minutes/2008/October%2014%2C%202008%20Minutes

Ypsilanti Food Co-op, Study Item

Applicant: Dave Strenski (present)

Corrine Sikorski (present)

Discussion: The applicant received another grant to place 30 panels on the roof of the Co-op. Mr. Strenski has three options for the placement of the panels. Mr. Strenski prefers two rows of 15 panels. The plan is to build a matrix beneath the panels for support and to protect the roof.

Know that the HDC will approve this type of design we have started doing the mechanical design of the array. We have sent emails to NREL and GLREA asking for reference material and have contacted UniRac asking for a design with a quote.

Since we were in the process of sending out an RFQ for solar panel for another grant, we decided to add the 30 panels to that request. RFQs went out to 5 local renewable energy companies asking for a quote for a total of 49 panels for 3 separate invoices. Responses are due by the end of November and we hope to place the order in December.

The Cooperative's Bakery has 3-phase power and there was a question about whether it was a "Y" configuration or a "Delta" configuration. One has 208 volts and the other has 240 volts. We pulled the cover off the breaker panel and measured the voltages coming into the Bakery and found it to be 240 volts.

Slow progress continues on the website (solar.ypsi.com) and on finishing the meter reading program. We have added a "flag" to the map on solar.ypsi.com for the installation going in at the Bakery.

We continue with our outreach program and gave talks to a total of 17 people during this period. We had 16 people at our Solar Tour and gave a one-on-one presentation to a writer for the Crazy Wisdom Bookstore. She is writing an article about solar projects in Ypsilanti for their next newsletter. We have also contacted Jackson Community College about giving a talk there and have downloaded contact information for all the neighborhood associations in Ann Arbor, and hope to contact many of them and offering our presentation to them.

Anticipated energy saving

The Cooperative's Bakery 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 have not spent any money during this period.

Noteworthy Accomplishments

Getting HDC's informal approval for putting panels on the Bakery's roof is great news.

Risk to the project

While talking to local renewable energy contractors, we learned that with the last bail out bill that was passed by the federal government, they removed the cap on the tax credit for renewable energy. While this is great news for renewable energy, the contractor said that people are buying panels and stock piling parts anticipating the growth in renewable energy business. This may affect our ability to get panels or at least the panels we would like.

Deviations from the Statement of Work

None.

Money Spent in the Past Two Months

None.