

33° SIGN UP FOR OUR BREAKING NEWS EMAIL ALERTS

Home > News > Breaking News

Monarch K-8 science students help school go solar

By The Denver Post

POSTED: 03/14/2011 05:30:49 PM MDT
UPDATED: 03/14/2011 05:31:03 PM MDT

Recommend 3 people recommend this.

BOOKMARK PRINT EMAIL 0 COMMENTS

The Monarch K-8 school in Louisville will turn on a new solar power system Wednesday, propelled largely by the efforts of eighth-graders whose annual school energy audits spurred interest in seeking a grant for the technology.

The Center for Resource Conservation in Boulder County has awarded five other 10-kilowatt systems since 2009 — most recently at Louisville's Fireside Elementary.

Eighth-grade earth science teacher Brian Slobe put together Monarch K-8's grant with the help of teacher Madeleine Gilpin and parent volunteer Merle Brinkman.

A "solar curriculum council" of about 10 eighth-graders already has been integrating the new energy system into classrooms by helping students monitor and chart the daily sunlight that will produce the power.

The 10-kilowatt system is about three times the size of an average home system and will fill just a small percentage of the school's energy needs.

"The power the school uses changes every month, so it's hard to estimate what it'll offset," Slobe said of the system. "But we're hoping that not only does it provide a renewable energy source, but once you install these things, you tend to be more aware of energy use, so that goes down as well."

To be considered for the solar systems, schools submit applications telling how they'll teach students and the community about renewable energy. The goal is to reach 200 community members and at least 20 percent of the student body with the curriculum.

Kathy Croasdale, the program coordinator for CRC, said Monarch already has sent her progress reports and appears to have exceeded expectations. Ultimately, the program aims for more than just school energy savings.

"It's also to educate," she said. "That's what has the staying power."

PRINT EMAIL RETURN TO TOP GET HOME DELIVERY TERMS OF USE

WE RECOMMEND

Denver doctor charged with sexual assault
(The Denver Post - Breaking News)

KUNC music director jumped to his death from top of Spire building
(The Denver Post - Breaking News)

Government credits help solar arrays go up in poor Colorado areas
(The Denver Post - News)

People: New dad Rod Stewart, 66, "knocked" by baby
(The Denver Post - Celebity)

FROM AROUND THE WEB (SPONSORED)

Solar power: an electrifying home project
(BankRate.com)

The Disadvantages of a Solar Generator
(LIVESTRONG.COM)

Coffee, Alcohol, and More That May Affect RA
(Health.com)

Colleges That Bring The Highest Paycheck 2011
(CNBC)

Search Site Web search by YAHOO!

POPULAR TALKERS EMAILED VOTED YEAR AGO

- Aurora police: Gunman holding two hostages fatally shot
- Police speed up discipline
- Denver City Council endorses pay raise for elected officials
- Two bodies found by boy in home southwest of Montrose
- Panel hears testimony on mentally ill inmates
- Latest shot filed in Colorado beer war
- Pranksters warn Boulder motorists of 'zombies ahead'
- Denver police chief recommends firing officer in beating incident

dp BREAKING NEWS

Denver schools locked down as officials search for suspects who led state trooper on chase
5 MINUTES AGO - Police are looking for people who jumped from a car that led state troopers on a chase.

- DU law school ranks in top 100 - 11 minutes ago
- Sheryl Crow's Beaver Creek show sells out in record time - 5 minutes ago
- Eagle County's January real estate was on par with last year - 16 minutes ago
- Steamboat City Council to hear nightclub debate - 20 minutes ago
- Ute Pass commuter bus service to be eliminated - 24 minutes ago
- Garfield County looks into options for economic development - 24 minutes ago
- Clinton pressing Egyptian transition leaders - 22 minutes ago
- Radiation level soars after Japan nuke plant fire - 46 minutes ago
- Indiana blames Notre Dame in student's death - 9 minutes ago
- Moffat County greenhouse project gets feasibility study grant - 29 minutes ago