



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mesa Elementary School Powers Up with Solar **A charitable gift helps fund largest solar electric system in Boulder Valley School District**

BOULDER, Colorado, March 6, 2008—Thanks to a donation from a Boulder based family foundation; [Mesa Elementary](#) has the largest solar electric system in the Boulder Valley School District. Designed and installed by [Simple Solar](#), the 9.9 kilowatt photovoltaic¹ (PV) system will generate over 12,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually and prevent more than eight tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from entering the atmosphere yearly. The project is the result of the [Center for ReSource Conservation's](#) (CRC) Renew Our Schools Program which brought together funding from a donor, and a solar electric company to supply renewable energy to the school.



The donation includes a solar monitoring system that will provide the school with system performance, solar electricity production, and CO₂ reduction. Current monitoring and solar educational material will inform the school community how solar electricity works and its benefits.

Mesa Principal Josh Baldner was quick to offer his appreciation for this generous gift saying, “The project provides more than a power source that offsets part of the school’s electricity costs. It empowers students with a positive message—individuals can come together to support a project that helps the environment in addition to supplying financial relief.”

Through its ReNew Our Schools Program, CRC plans to install several solar PV systems and establish interactive based conservation projects at other Boulder County schools. According to CRC’s Executive Director Keith Desrosiers, “The intention of the program is to create a green community of students, educators, parents, and local leaders that work together to design and implement sustainability projects. These projects will lower schools’ operating costs and reduce environmental impacts.”

Minimizing environmental impact and energy were foremost in the creation of the PV system design. Simple Solar selected PV modules that use Evergreen Solar's String-Ribbon™ wafer technology. This streamlined solar cell manufacturing technology requires less energy to produce modules. "Finding ways to save energy when building PV systems is a key part of Simple Solar's mission," remarks President Joe Callahan. "This is essential to deliver a complete energy efficient solution."

This type of program supports growth in the sustainable energy field where visionary organizations such as Simple Solar, the Center for ReSource Conservation, and Mesa Elementary School create partnerships to spread the knowledge and benefits of sustainable energy sources within the multifaceted education community.

About Mesa Elementary School

Mesa Elementary School is a unique neighborhood school committed to a strong academic curriculum that also integrates high quality instruction in the visual arts, music, and athletics. Mesa continues to build upon its tradition of academic excellence by challenging all students to excel and by fostering their love of learning. Visit <http://schools.bvssd.org/mesa/> for more information.

About Center for ReSource Conservation

The CRC has been helping individuals, businesses, and local governments throughout Boulder County conserve natural resources for more than 30 years. Recognizing that all resource conservation issues are interconnected, CRC focuses its programming in energy and water conservation, and waste reduction. Visit www.conservationcenter.org/ for more information.

About Simple Solar

Simple Solar designs and installs quality solar electric systems for residential, commercial, and nonprofit organizations. We are a full service provider dedicated to creating a simple and seamless customer experience, every time. In addition, Simple Solar partners with builders, architects, contractors, and real estate professionals to deliver energy efficient solutions. Our 15 years in the solar business enable us to handle the entire process from design through installation. Visit www.simplesolar.com for more information.

1. Photovoltaic - Capable of producing a voltage when exposed to radiant energy, especially light. Definition source is dictionary.com.

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