

Ann Arbor's Energy Challenge

In a speech to City Council in September 2005, Mayor Hieftje issued a Green Energy Challenge to the city, calling on the Energy Commission to investigate how Ann Arbor could make strong steps toward a sustainable energy future.

Building on recommendations from the Energy Commission, City Council passed a resolution on May 1, 2006 to formally adopt the following goals:

- 30% renewable energy for municipal operations by 2010;
- 20% renewable energy by 2015 for the Ann Arbor community; and a
- 20% reduction from 2000 greenhouse gas emission levels by 2015 for the Ann Arbor community.

The Energy Commission is charged with the task of working with the community to achieve these challenging goals.



Farmers Market roof sections with solar panels.

Ann Arbor: a Solar America City

The U.S. Department of Energy's Solar America Initiative aims to make solar energy competitive with fossil fuels by 2015. As part of this initiative, the DOE designated 25 Solar America Cities to help build a solar-powered future.

The Ann Arbor Solar America City Partnership is working to make it easier for you to go solar. Partners include the Ann Arbor Energy Office, Ann Arbor Energy Commission, Clean Energy Coalition, Downtown Development Authority, Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association, Michigan Energy Office, MPSC, NextEnergy, UM Memorial Phoenix Energy Institute, Uni-Solar, and Washtenaw County.



To Learn More:

Visit www.a2gov.org/energy, www.glrea.org, or contact the Energy Office at energy@a2gov.org

This publication was funded by a grant from the State of Michigan Energy Office.

The same sunshine that grows our food is now powering the Ann Arbor Farmers Market!

The Farmers Market Goes Solar!



Brought to you by the Ann Arbor Energy Office, Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority, and the Michigan Energy Office.



What is Solar Energy?

Solar energy is energy from the sun. We use solar energy in many different ways. For example, when we eat, we get energy from plants that used solar energy to grow.

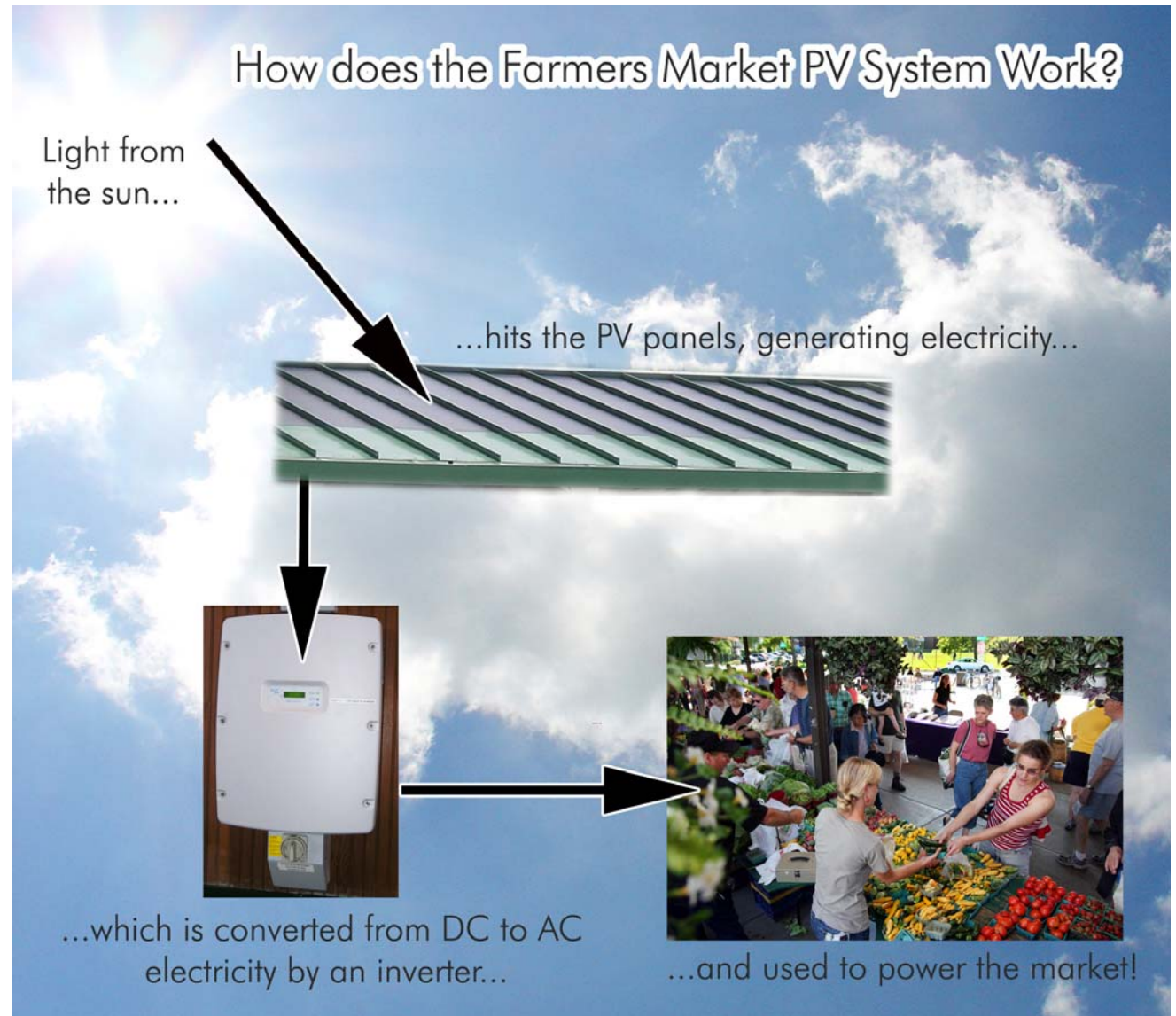
However, we can also collect energy directly from the sun's rays. Special panels use sunlight to heat water or convert it into electricity. Here at the Farmers Market, we are collecting the sun's energy using a photovoltaic (PV) panel. PV panels use the light from the sun to generate electricity. This electricity helps power the market building and vendor stalls.

How Can I Use Solar Energy?

The two most common direct uses of solar energy are to heat water and generate electricity. Solar hot water technology was first introduced in the 1920s and is currently the most cost-effective means of using solar energy. Photovoltaic (PV) panels that make electricity from sunshine are a newer technology and are rapidly becoming more cost-effective.

How Much Will the Market Save?

The Farmers Market PV system is expected to generate about 15,000 kWh a year, about one-third of the Market's annual electricity usage. At current electricity prices, this represents about \$1,700 per year.



What About Batteries?

The Farmers Market PV system does not use batteries to store electricity. Instead, electricity is "stored" in the electric grid. When the solar panels generate more

electricity than the market is using, the excess will be sold to DTE Energy for credit toward future electricity use. This process is called *net metering*.