



**POWER COOPERATIVE**

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**Heartland Power Cooperative Announces Community Solar Project**

Heartland Power Cooperative has announced a site located near St. Ansgar, Iowa for its community solar project. The solar project will be up to 750 kW in size. The cooperative has partnered with the National Renewable Cooperative Organization (NRCO), along with the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Cooperation (CFC) and the Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange on the project. The collaborative program provides a streamlined process to develop a solar project in the most cost-effective manner.

The project will consist of solar panel subscriptions that will be available for purchase by Heartland Power members. The community solar model employs economies of scale to build optimally-sited, fully maintained, solar PV arrays designed for maximum power production at the lowest possible price. Members get the benefits of solar ownership, yet bypass the research, construction, and ongoing maintenance and repair required of a stand-alone system.

The Heartland Power staff and directors are excited to bring this opportunity to its members. There has been a lot of interest from the membership throughout the initial evaluation stages of the project. The project will be funded by those participating in the project and will not be subsidized by members not purchasing subscriptions.

“We are pleased to hear that Heartland Power has selected a Mitchell County location for their proposed solar array initiative,” states Brenda Dwyer, Executive Director for Mitchell County Economic Development Commission. “This is a very unique project as the member/owners of the Cooperative will have the opportunity to make an investment in this green energy. When complete this project will be one of the largest solar projects in Iowa. I know the Heartland management team and their Board of Directors analyzed a number of sites in their service territory. We are thrilled to know that the final site is in Mitchell County.”

Heartland Power Cooperative is a rural electric utility with offices in Thompson and St. Ansgar, Iowa serving 9 counties in northern Iowa and 3 counties in southern Minnesota. Heartland Power serves approximately 5,200 members and roughly 1,920 miles of line.