



School District No. 8

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"Home of the Hornets"

Press Release

It is with deep appreciation and humble gratitude that I write this letter of thank you to NorthWestern Energy and the Universal Systems Benefits program for the contribution to our school's renewable solar energy project on our multipurpose building. I recognize that the funding does not cover the full cost of the program and we assure you that we are committed to completing this project, but feel that it is only appropriate to recognize such a substantial sum (\$64,282.00) with the gratitude and appreciation it deserves.

NorthWestern Energy USB Renewable Energy Funds provide incentives for projects that benefit organizations and communities for non-profit or government facilities. Projects receiving these funds often provide civic value including education and visible representation of renewable energy technologies to a broad audience. USB funds are collected from all NorthWestern Energy electric customers in Montana as part of their monthly bills. White Sulphur Springs has been awarded money to cover 80% of the proposed costs of a 49.83 kW system, \$64,282.00 on our multipurpose building.

We are pleased that our renewable project was among those selected to receive funding. As noted in our proposal, this project has support from our math and science teachers and will include curriculum units on renewable energy. Because of the NorthWestern Energy USB funds, we can focus our ongoing resources in such a way as to provide the means to students to enable the realization of their educational goals. You can imagine the long range impact this project will have upon their education and their future. It is much easier to concentrate on such goals in a safe, secure facility that provides and promotes an environment conducive to quality education.

In addition, you have the appreciation of the entire White Sulphur Springs faculty and Board of Trustees for this incentive. I can assure you that this funding will not only contribute to the benefit of our ongoing building plans and how that will look, but it will also make our own school system more aware of the importance of renewable energy, as well as properly preparing each and every graduate. It means a great deal to us to know that people still appreciate and support public education. Let's hope that our present students follow the example you have set when their time comes to do so.

Thank you for the commitment to the White Sulphur Springs school solar project..

Sincerely,

Larry L. Markuson, Superintendent