

Mineral Point High School

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## Solar Solution

Solar energy is the best renewable energy for Mineral Points School District because it would be easy to integrate. Secondly, Solar energy is very efficient. Lastly, The Mineral Point School District's payback would be a significant amount. I believe solar energy would be the best renewable energy source for the school district, saving a great deal of money. It would be great because the school could take that money and fund other projects or learning-related things.

Solar energy would not be hard to integrate into the Mineral Point School District. We could put solar panels on top of roofs so that they could collect energy all day, and they would not take up the ground space. This would be great because we could easily just put solar panels on roofs.

The efficiency of solar is high, and they can provide electricity to many things. "newer cells now operate at about 40% efficiency, a reasonable rate compared to the efficiency of burning fossil fuels, which is about 34%", (Nelson, M. Rae.). This quote shows that the efficiency rate of solar is excellent and could improve in the near future. Solar energy can be used to provide electrical power to many things like space explorations, light billboards, and power irrigation pumps. Solar is a perfect choice for a renewable energy source because it is very efficient and can be used to power many things.

Solar energy would have a tremendous payback, and the Mineral Point School District would save money. First, the type of panels the school district should buy would be the 10kW panels. They are about \$17,465 for each panel. Each panel produces roughly 30 kWh per day. In about 30 days or a month, it would be 900kWh. Each kWh is about \$2.50, about \$2,250 per month, or \$27,000 per year. In 10 years, they would make \$270,000. If the school bought 5 of them, it would come out to about \$87,325 for the cost of the panels. They would make about \$1,350,000 in 1 year, but you have to subtract the expenses. Subtracting the cost of the panels, it is \$1,262,675. If the school's power usage stays the same for the next ten years, it would cost about \$950,000, leaving the total saved at about \$312,675. This money could go toward things in the school district, like panels for the school district, which would lead to the district saving money. All of this information I found in "Solar panel cost Wisconsin" and "What Will a 10,000 Watt (10 KW) Solar System Cost in Your State?"

Overall, solar energy is the best energy because it is easy to integrate, efficient, and would save the school district money. It will even allow the district to

make money in the end. Solar energy is easy to incorporate because we could put it on the roof of schools. Solar energy is efficient and this energy would allow the school to invest in other things, not just paying power bills, and there would be extra cash for funding different projects or ideas.