

Kiosk Offers Solar Powered Information

Grants pay for sign installed at Muscatine High School

A new informational kiosk was installed on the grounds of Muscatine High School in October. The sign does not contain information about where the cafeteria is located, nor does it tell visitors where to locate the school office. Instead, the sign gives onlookers information about solar power while using solar energy to power a programmable LED sign on one side of the kiosk.

A grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources paid for the sign



that is erected on the school's grounds. The high school was chosen as one of three sites in Iowa to receive a sign based on several factors, including the fact that the high school uses the solar array to generate enough energy to power the equivalent of all of the exit signs in the school.

John Root, energy services advisor for Muscatine Power and Water, received a grant from the Environmental Education Foundation and ESCO Inc. to install the 1,000 PV array at the high school. The Muscatine High School Electrathon Team installed the array.

The new kiosk is three-sided and has information about solar technology in all three sides. The programmable LED screen is powered

The solar powered kiosk at Muscatine High School. The programmable LED screen is powered by two 75-amp hour deep cycle batteries, which receive their energy from a 125-watt Kyocera solar module mounted on top of the kiosk. Impact Technologies of Cedar Falls built and designed the sign, while John Root designed the solar-powered system.

Muscatine Power and Water will begin its residential Solar Muscatine program in January 2004. Watch your mail for more information.