



June 2013

Thought solar was just for the early adoptors or die hard greenies concerned about sustainability? THINK AGAIN... and read on below in this ALL ABOUT SOLAR issue.

Alliant Customers, Act or Lose Your REBATE!

Are you an Alliant customer thinking about installing solar? DEFINITELY ACT NOW. Alliant is offering a very generous solar rebate to virtually all customers that can cover 25% or more of project costs, but ONLY THROUGH 2013!

Here's a crash course on everything you need to know to make your solar installation happen this summer! [<read more>](#)

"...we had the roof space, the system would be out of sight and the economics penciled out. To me it was a no brainer." - Brad Schwartz, Oneota Valley Eye Care

The Secret Lives of Rooftops

Solar panels are being installed at a tremendous rate these days with fewer and fewer in high visibility locations. One might never know that there are over 80 kilowatts (kW) of install solar photovoltaics right in downtown Decorah.

Rarely do we think of a solar array on a commercial rooftop, lonely, hidden and quietly at work escorting solar electrons onto the grid. Yet, the expanse of sun drenched roof space downtown holds some of the best potential for solar, and as prices continue to plummet, that's perhaps where we will be seeing the largest growth of solar installs. [<read more>](#)

"I'd like to say that putting up solar was for altruistic reasons, but really it was more of a business decision." - John Dambek, Pizza Ranch

5 Reasons To Go Solar By The End Of The Year

In our April newsletter we posted an [article](#) that addressed why we feel now is the time to stop thinking about solar and start installing. Be it for home or business, the cost of installed solar has never been so close to parity with electricity. With additional incentives many Alliant residential and commercial customers can see paybacks of 10 years or better. Even non-alliant customers are find the economics to be very positive!

Here are 5 reasons why you should start the process of adding a solar photovoltaic system today: [<read more>](#)

"I enjoy playing the game of energy savings..."

Upcoming

Energy Breakfast

June 12th, Wed,
7am

T-Bocks

Topic: Community
Energy Projects

Speaker: [HR Green](#)
President and CEO
Ralph Russel.

Small Wind Conference

June 18-19

9th Annual

Conference

held in Holiday Inn
Stevens Point, WI

Solar Sources

Online sources that have a steady flow of pertinent information about solar and renewable energy.

Solar Industry

[Renewable Energy
World](#)

[American Solar
Energy Society](#)

[Rocky Mountain
Institute](#)

Solar Web

[NRG Doubles Down
on Solar Generation](#)

Rocky Mtn Institute

[MN Sets Solar
Standard for Utilities](#)

Solar Industry

and trying to best my score." -Lee Zook, Central Block bldg.

New County Solar Map In Development

There are so many fantastic solar energy projects installed and in process in our area. The Energy District has been involved in the creation of a web tool that will pool these projects together in one online map so viewers can learn more about *local* solar projects.

The tool is still very much in development but check it out, watch it grow and send us your thoughts! [<view map>](#)

What if we never run out of oil?

The solar industry has in a very direct way benefitted from climate and environmental concerns of the burning of fossil fuels and the attempts by many to move away from those energy sources. The consumption of oil, though not typically used in the production of electricity, comprises roughly a third of the current global primary energy supply and is clearly a major contributor to global climate change and other environmental problems. Scientists, experts, reporters and bloggers have written countless articles detailing their beliefs in the finite supply of accessible oil, peal oil and the end of the oil era. What if we never stop finding ways to tap resources which are currently inaccessible? What are the energy, environmental, and socio-political implications of unending oil? [This article posted in May issue of The Atlantic](#) address this question.

Financing Solar \$25 at a Time

Solar Industry

Solar - A Disruptive Technology

Medium

Renewable Energy Forecasting Software

Clean Technica

The Calm before the Solar Storm

Rocky Mtn Institute

Is Grid Reliability a Concern?

Renew Grid

Utilities vs. Rooftop: What is the fight about?

Grist

10 Strategies for Successfully Permitting Major Solar Projects?

Solar Today

