



Art is what we do, and we want to ensure that we can confidently serve future generations. One way we can contribute to the sustainability of our environment and contribute to future generations is by disconnecting from the grid. This move is a small part of what we can do to reduce the use of fossil fuels that have a negative impact on our environment, allow us to reduce our electrical costs, and redirect this expense to do what we do best - providing access to art and creativity within our community.

ACB's Solar Project FAQs

- **When are the panels being installed, and where?**
 - We look forward to our solar array being installed on the roof of our building this spring, with a deadline of installation on June 1, 2024.
- **How will the Art Center raise the required \$181,180 to pay for this project?**
 - We are asking the community to join us in our fundraising efforts. The sooner we can pay off the array, the sooner we can fully benefit from our solar capabilities and redirect funds previously spent on electricity to our extensive art initiatives.
- **Are there any incentives or rebates available for individuals or businesses who contribute to the Art Center's sustainability initiative?**
 - In 2023, the US government introduced the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act), providing a 30% solar tax credit to nonprofits, positively impacting our fundraising efforts. I suggest a different approach to this question to talk about benefits flowing to our contributors: Donations to ACB's solar fundraising program may be tax deductible.
- **What timeframe has the Art Center set for achieving its fundraising goal?**
 - We have set a goal of a 3-year fundraising campaign to pay off our solar array.

- **Will the Art Center continue to rely on traditional grid powered energy along with solar energy?**
 - We will immediately utilize our solar energy once the solar array is installed in the spring. Because of the system design that we have elected to install, we will still be connected to the grid. Our solar system does not have batteries to store energy, so we will put our excess energy back onto the grid and when the days are cloudy and at night, we can retrieve this "banked" energy back from the grid.
- **What is the size of the solar array being installed?**
 - The system size is 84 kilowatts, which is approximately 162 panels at 520 watts each, producing approximately 108,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity a year.
- **What steps will the Art Center take to educate the community about the benefits of solar energy and sustainability?**
 - We're thrilled to educate the community through events, classes, free sustainability activities, alleyway public art projects, and more. We want the community to be involved in this exciting next chapter!
- **How will the Art Center measure the impact of its sustainability efforts over time?**
 - We will continue to investigate and implement sustainability practices through our art education curriculum and the products and supplies used at ACB. Alternative: We will closely monitor performance reports to ensure that the installation is meeting benchmarks. In addition, the Art Center will track the new programs that we are able to initiate as a result of the savings.
- **Can donors or supporters track the progress of the sustainability initiative?**
 - We're excited to offer the community a glimpse into our solar production and engage supporters in fun ways to see their impact.
- **Are there any plans for future sustainability initiatives beyond the transition to solar energy?**
 - In the future, we aim to invest in high-efficiency HVAC systems to further enhance our solar capabilities and reduce our environmental footprint.
- **How can community members and businesses get involved in supporting the Art Center's sustainability efforts?**
 - Community members and businesses can donate to the solar fundraising initiative, participate in events, join conversations, observe the installation of our solar panels, take part in art classes, and contribute to public art projects celebrating this initiative and its impact on our arts community and environment.
- **Who is the vendor who will be providing/installing the array?**
 - Mohrfeld Electric, Ft. Madison, IA
- **How many businesses within the Art Center of Burlington will be taking advantage of this solar energy?**
 - The Art Center of Burlington's 10,647 square foot building is home to several downtown businesses including: Burlington by the Book, Gypsi, Kalioke Movement Lounge, Allied Creator Studios, and Ameriprise Financial.