

# RENEWABLE POLK COUNTY (WI)

News and reviews of renewable energy applications in Polk County, Wisconsin.

**Wednesday, April 1, 2009**  
**GREATMATS.COM**



Owner: David Butler, [GREATMATS.COM](#)  
Location: 117 Industrial Ave., Milltown, WI 54858  
Phone: 715-825-4926  
Email: info [at] greatmats.com  
Contractor: Kris Schmid, [Legacy Solar](#), Frederic, WI  
Installed: 2007-2008

GREATMATS.COM sells custom floor coverings for industrial, athletic, commercial and residential applications from its warehouse in Milltown's industrial park. In the fall of 2007, owner David Butler contracted with Kris Schmid to install two photovoltaic (PV) solar arrays along the south side of his property. A year later he added a second pair, easily making this the largest PV installation currently existing in Polk County.

## Polk County Renewable Energy Committee



### Mission Statement

Polk County, Wisconsin, United States

"The mission of the Polk County Renewable Energy Committee is to research, evaluate, and promote sustainability with a focus on renewable energy systems for Polk County residents, businesses, and public agencies."

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### Other Systems

- ▶ **2010** (1)
- ▼ **2009** (6)
  - ▶ **November 2009** (2)
  - ▼ **April 2009** (1)
    - [GREATMATS.COM](#)
    - ▶ **February 2009** (3)

### Links

- ◆ [Legacy Solar](#)
- ◆ [Energy Concepts](#)
- ◆ [RENEW Wisconsin](#)
- ◆ [Midwest Renewable Energy Association](#)
- ◆ [Wisconsin's Bio Energy Forum](#)
- ◆ [Focus on Energy](#)
- ◆ [Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence](#)



- ◆ 25x'25
- ◆ Xcel Energy
- ◆ Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Company
- ◆ Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative

The installed cost of the complete system came to about \$118,000, of which 25% was returned as a cash grant from Focus on Energy. Federal business tax credits reduced the price by another 25%, and an accelerated depreciation schedule made the project even more affordable.



Owner David Butler (blue shirt at left) talks about his system with a tour group. With an output rating of 11 kW, his four PV units provide 135% of his business's annual electrical needs; the excess is sold back to Northwestern Electric under a program called net metering-- basically the meter runs backward when he's producing more power than he's consuming. His first check from the power company is in a frame on Butler's office wall.



These PV arrays are equipped with gears and motors that allow the panels to remain oriented toward the sun throughout the day and across the seasons. Called a dual axis tracking system, this feature significantly boosts power output.



Butler tells visitors that he didn't invest in his solar panels for the payback, which he calculates at about 11 years at current electricity prices (and figuring in the various incentives). "If you believe, like I do, that we need to move away from coal and nuclear power for the good of the planet, then I think we each have a responsibility to help make that change happen in whatever way we can," says Butler.



Installer Kris Schmid of Legacy Solar explains the controls and monitoring devices.

Posted by **Mission Statement** at **9:14 PM**




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4 COMMENTS:

***Anonymous said...***

Hi! Beautiful pics of trackers and great write up! I found you because I was keywording "natural step" and "wisconsin". I'll keep lookin' round your site.

Carol G  
thenaturalstepmadison.wordpress.com

**April 2, 2009 at 7:23 PM**

***Anonymous said...***

Looking for a large yoga/martial arts mat. Found your site. Glad to see you guys doing the right thing (and not just saving, but making \$ in the process). With this in mind, we will be buying our mat from you.

Nic

**June 28, 2009 at 2:05 PM**



***Sifu Josh Phillips said...***

Well done guys; I was already sold on your product...but

knowing you're going the extra mile in a real way makes all the difference. I'll recommend you to everyone i know!

**March 16, 2010 at 4:41 PM**



**Michell Koehn said...**

Awesome products and solutions to energy makes buying from you so easy! I'll be buying and referring anyone who might be interested and bragging about y'all to the rest!

**March 4, 2013 at 12:29 AM**

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