



Solar Project for Westville Schools

March 6, 2018

As you know, construction of a solar project is underway at MSD of New Durham Township. Performance Services has partnered with Midwest Wind and Solar to implement a \$2.3 million guaranteed energy savings project. It is a large and somewhat overwhelming project. It seems like we are giving up a lot of “green space” and it might not make sense at this time. However, we are creating an environmental impact for the community and our children for years to come. The project is scheduled to be completed this May.

The project will pay for itself with what we save in energy costs. It is made possible through *Indiana Benefits for Renewable Energy Systems*. What this means is that Westville will have a 30-year interconnection agreement with NIPSCO. The solar project will provide 944 kilowatts of clean, renewable energy and offset approximately 95% of electrical usage at our K-12 building. We will save approximately \$1.1 million over the course of 20 years.

What does this mean for kids? We not only provide clean energy but the savings puts more money into facilities and instructional locations and equipment. A solar curriculum program developed by the *National Energy Education Development (NEED)* project and sponsored by Performance Services is available to the district for use in the classroom. NIPSCO has also donated a large monitor and software program which will allow students to monitor energy usage and savings. In addition, we are increasing our offerings in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) *Project Lead the Way* and this costs money. We need the room and equipment to have these programs. Our demand for technology is never ending, ever increasing, and very expensive. This is a win-win project for the corporation and most importantly, our students.

Representatives from Performance Services will be at the March 14th School Board meeting to present an update and answer questions.

Lynn Johnson, Ed. S.
Interim Superintendent