

GOVERNOR'S RENEWABLE ENERGY RECOGNITION

Southwest Junior High School, Lawrence

The sun is giving a boost to Southwest Junior High School in Lawrence.

In August, a crew finished installing a 1.2-kilowatt solar module on the roof of the main entrance to the school.

Solar power will provide a portion of Southwest's energy needs, but school leaders say the educational component will be the greatest benefit.

"The important thing is that our students and the community will see that an installation of this nature looks good," said Southwest Principal Trish Bransky. "We'll be generating data 24-7, and we'll be able to see how much energy we are offsetting."

The project was mostly financed by the the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, based in Portland, Ore., which develops and manages Solar 4 R Schools. The Bonneville foundation allows area businesses to purchase renewable energy credits, known as "green tags" through Zephyr Energy, and proceeds from those sales will fund the solar project at Southwest.

No taxpayer funds were used on the project. School leaders also applied for a \$7,000 grant from the Douglas County Community Foundation's Elizabeth Schultz Environmental Fund to cover half of the installation costs.

Akiosk has been installed. Technological advancements had made solar power systems no longer an exotic, high-maintenance technology.