

# 2006 Minnesota Solar Tour

October 7, 2006

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## Good Earth Natural Foods

120 NW 3rd Avenue  
Austin, MN

A long-range commitment is in place at Good Earth Natural Foods to reduce all energy consumption to as close to zero as possible in a building containing both commercial and apartment spaces. Eight Evergreen solar panels with a total of 880 watts cover 5% of the building's electrical use. The panels were fixed-mounted on the 100% southern exposure of the building's front to create a display for the community. The larger-than-needed Sunny Boy 1800-watt inverter was purchased to take a second set of panels at a later date. An electric meter was provided by Austin Utilities for display in the storefront's window to demonstrate the panels' ability to generate electricity so that passers-by can have a tangible feel for the project.

### System Components



- 8 Evergreen solar electric panels, totalling 880 watts
- 1,800-watt Sunny Boy inverter
- Electric meter for public display
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs in apartments

### Directions

Take I-35E south to Albert Lea. Exit at I-90 and follow I-90 to Austin. Take the 4th Street NW exit and turn right at 4th Street. Turn left at 3rd Avenue. The building is at 3rd and Main Street.

