



The City of Morgantown

389 Spruce Street
Morgantown, WV 26505
www.morgantownwv.gov

CONTACT: Susan Sullivan, Public Communications Manager
ssullivan@cityofmorgantown.org
304-284-7426

Aaron Sutch, Energy Program Manager, The Mountain Institute
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 13, 2014
asutch@mountain.org
505-730-3943

City Unveils Live Solar Panel Stats on MorgantownWV.gov

The public can now view real-time statistics for energy production online.

MORGANTOWN – The City of Morgantown is pleased to announce that, the public can now view live energy production statistics from the 12 solar panels installed on the Morgantown Market Place Roof.

On the [Morgantown Market Place page on MorgantownWV.gov](#), viewers are able to see an array of statistics, provided through Enphase Energy software. The panels were donated to the City by the [Mountain Institute in collaboration with Downstream Strategies and Mountain View Solar](#).



“Anyone visiting the site is able to view current production rates to see how much energy the panels are producing,” explained Aaron Sutch, Energy Program Manager at The Mountain Institute. “It’s been online since April. Since then, it has produced electricity to power 98 homes for one day.”

Data displayed includes:

- Current data, including temperature, total energy, and power stats
- A visual display of the 12 inverters, with a gradient effect as energy absorption levels fluctuate
- Quantifiable examples relating how much energy has been collected, and what it could be used to power. (i.e. Today collected 10.6 kilowatt-hours of energy. It takes 3.37 kilowatt-hours of energy to light the Eiffel Tower for one minute, or 88 watt-hours to charge a cell phone all day.)

The Market Place, also known as Morgantown Parking Authority Lot A, on Spruce Street, is currently permit parking, with plans to make it a paid lot. Main Street

Morgantown helped the City to secure funding and support for the green pavilion. During the warmer months, the Morgantown Farmers Market is held there each Saturday morning. The pavilion was designed with more than just the addition of solar panels in mind: it collects its own rainwater, and is currently undergoing the construction of a Supplemental Building. This will not only serve as restrooms during events, but feature pull-out components which will allow for live cooking demonstrations on Farmers Market mornings.

The solar array is also hooked up to an electric car charger, which is being adapted for pay-to-charge use.

“If all the energy we’ve produced since April with just these 12 panels was used to power an electric vehicle, it would be able to drive more than seven thousand miles. That’s the equivalent of driving back and forth from L.A. to New York and still having mileage to spare,” said Sutch. But in reality, the power is added to the city’s power grid, expecting to save the Morgantown Parking Authority roughly \$4,000 in its first ten years of operation.

“We are interested in the bottom line,” said Tom Arnold, Executive Director of the Morgantown Parking Authority. “If solar can save the City money and enhance our services to the public, then it fits within our mission.”

For more information on the Market Place, visit its website at http://www.morgantownwv.gov/green/market_place/.

###

