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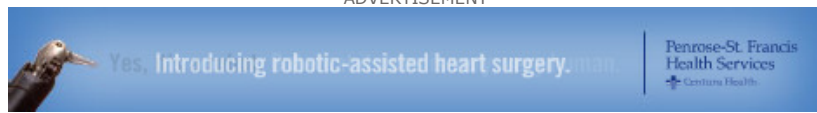
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## CSU-Pueblo steps toward renewable energy



**CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/JOHN JAQUES**

**Vickie Massam (foreground), president of Smart Growth of Pueblo, talks about new 6.12 kw solar panels that will provide a portion of the energy used in the technology building at CSU-Pueblo.**

**By GAYLE PEREZ**  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Colorado State University-Pueblo made a switch to renewable energy Thursday morning as officials unveiled two new solar panels that will provide power to the Technology Building.

"We're hoping this will be the first of many efforts to improve long-term sustainability and our commitment to renewable energy," CSU-Pueblo President Joseph Garcia said at Thursday morning's dedication ceremony.

The twin photovoltaic solar energy panels, located just south of the Technology Building, were installed this spring as part of a collaborative project with Smart Growth Advocates of Pueblo and EcoSol/EcoStruct.



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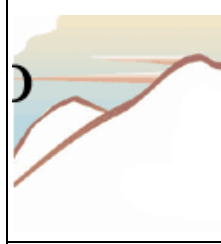
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With the bright sun beaming down on the slightly tilted panels Thursday, university officials joined with representatives from Smart Growth and Aquila to flip the symbol power switch signifying the addition of solar power to the Tech building.

The panels will produce, on peak demand, approximately 6 kilowatts of energy, or enough to supply at least half the building with electricity.

Although the system will not meet the energy demands of the entire building, the project will provide another learning tool for engineering students at CSU-Pueblo.

"This installation will be an important lab for our students and is an important first step in moving CSU-Pueblo to dependence only on renewable resources," said Jane Fraser, professor and chair of the engineering department.

Students will gain valuable work experience as they will be regularly calculating, calibrating and measuring the output and efficiency of the system.

"We are delighted by the energetic collaboration with CSU-Pueblo, EcoSol, Aquila and SECRES to provide tangible educational opportunities in renewable energy," said Vickie Massam, president of Smart Growth.

Massam added that the panels, as well as the state-of-the-art Web interface, will "provide real-time data on the benefits of renewable energy."

Hector Carrasco, dean of the College of Education, Engineering and Professional Studies, said the university will provide money to hire two graduate students to monitor and track the system, as well as to provide community outreach on the project.

The approximately \$90,000 project was completed with money provided by CSU-Pueblo, an Aquila rebate and a grant from the Supplemental Environment Program, or SEP.

The SEP offers grants using money that has been collected from environmental violations. In Pueblo, the money is coming from violations that were imposed on Rocky Mountain Steel Mills.



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