

# STUDENTS STAND UP FOR SOLAR POWER

Okemos High School, 2800 Jolly Rd, Okemos, MI

## COMPLETED UPGRADES

- Roof-mounted 20kW solar system installation

## PROJECT SAVINGS

- Lifetime savings of \$56,448
- Monthly savings of \$134.40

## PROJECT FUNDING

- C.S. Mott Foundation Grant
- School fundraising

## Project Summary

As part of an effort spearheaded by students, Michigan Energy Options (MEO) performed a building energy usage analysis and solar assessment for Okemos High School (OHS). MEO was able to identify opportunities for energy improvement in the building's systems and related cost savings. MEO also designed the potential production and cost of solar system options on the school's roof.

The high school Environmental Club, faculty and staff initiated the project and reached out to MEO to help with feasibility and technical studies. Some of the project was funded through a grant from the C.S. Mott Foundation. Additional money—\$70,000—was fundraised by the school. The project also earned lots of social and broadcast media attention as it developed.

MEO assessed the OHS building and provided a customized report highlighting the most cost-effective energy efficiency upgrades, as well as comparative analyses for two solar system sizes. The report included estimates of costs, savings and payback times for the recommended upgrades. Selected upgrades included solar installation of a 20kW roof-mounted system. The solar system was installed in July 2017 by Homeland Solar, a local Michigan company.

Additionally, MEO was able to bring in one of its partners, The Ecology Center, to energy benchmark all of the Okemos Public Schools buildings. The work was completed for nine buildings and has resulted in the district now pursuing ENERGY STAR® certification.

**Building owner:** Okemos High School

**Building type:** Two-story, 320,000 sq. ft. educational complex

**Year of construction:** 1994

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*"Our goal was to save some money and make an impact on our carbon footprint," Miles Bolton, VP of Okemos High School Environmental Club.*

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