

NASHVILLE ELECTRIC SERVICE



Powernotes

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Local Shopping Center Gets Powerful New Roof

Greg Smith, owner and manager of the City Square shopping center in Hendersonville, has turned an ugly roof into a bright idea.

His building at 260 West Main Street is now home to the largest Generation Partners installation in the state.

A total of 288 solar panels line the roof and are capable of generating 88 kilowatts of renewable energy on a sunny day. What does that mean? This solar system running for one hour could power 15-20 average homes in Nashville for an hour!

TVA's Generation Partners program provides technical support and incentives for customers that generate their own renewable power. Solar, wind, biomass and low-impact hydropower are eligible for the program.

The startup incentive for customers to help offset installation costs is \$1,000.

TVA buys back all of the green power that is generated at a rate of 12 cents per kilowatt-hour for solar and 3 cents per kilowatt-hour for other renewables above the NES electric rate.



Greg Smith has been interested in renewable energy for years and built one of Tennessee's first solar houses in 1989.

"Direct generation from the sun is now technically feasible and is

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rapidly becoming financially feasible as well,” Smith said. “I feel fortunate to be in a position to be a ‘first mover’ in helping NES and TVA expand the Generation Partners program, supporting green jobs locally, and promoting environmental consciousness and benefits.”

The cost of the technology used to generate solar energy has dropped significantly in the last several years, making it much more viable for homeowners and businesses to invest in renewable generation. Plus, solar panels and small wind systems are eligible for a federal tax incentive worth 30 percent of the total cost, without a cap. Additional information about tax credits is available on the IRS website at www.irs.gov.

To learn more about Generation Partners, including Nashville’s first commercial customer to plug into the grid, visit www.nespower.com.

