

*****Press Release*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 24, 2015**

Local Company to Build Largest Solar Project in Area

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative (ECEC) announced its choice for builder of the area's largest solar project Tuesday night. The co-op announced its pick, Able Energy Co. (WeKnowSolar.com) out of River Falls, Wis., during the 78th annual meeting at Florian Gardens in Eau Claire.

Able Energy will construct an 858 kilowatt project as part of ECEC's community solar program, called MemberSolar. The co-op will sell shares of the solar project to its members. Each share will cost roughly \$650 and will return about \$840 in energy over 20 years, according to Lynn E. Thompson, President and CEO of ECEC.

"Our members have expressed a strong interest in clean, local, renewable energy," Thompson said. "The Cooperative is excited to make this new, innovative offering available to our members."

Able Energy will install the 2,816-panel project on land adjacent to ECEC's headquarters near Fall Creek, Wis. The solar array will feed the grid at a nearby substation. Able Energy is headquartered in River Falls, but installs solar projects in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Arizona. The company has installed more than 350 projects since 2009.

"Able Energy is excited to be a part of this project and partner with Eau Claire Energy Cooperative. It is an exciting partnership and one that will provide the region with clean energy for at least the next 25 years or more," said Michael Harvey, President of Able Energy.

Solar energy projects create energy in cells as direct current which is then inverted to alternating current and pushed onto the grid. The 305-watt panels used in the project are 6.5-feet high by 3.25-feet wide. The panels are warranted for 25 years to perform at 80 percent or better efficiency.

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