

# Solar Project Opens on ENMU–Roswell Campus



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Xcel Energy's new community solar energy demonstration site on the ENMU-Roswell campus was officially opened to the public September 30 with a ribbon cutting ceremony. About 200 community leaders, RISD students, college officials and college students attended the ceremony. The 35 kilowatt solar installation demonstrates six photovoltaic (PV) solar technologies that can be installed on homes or businesses, including rooftop, lollipop array, single axis array, and dual axis array. The project covers 22,000 square feet and includes a walking path with information markers describing the types of technology being demonstrated and interesting solar facts. Meters also show the output of the power being generated.

In his remarks, Mike McLeod, Xcel Energy Regional Manager, said the ENMU-Roswell site is the largest of the company's four solar installations in Southeast New Mexico and the "crown jewel" of the Community Solar Program. Dr. John Madden, ENMU-Roswell President, thanked Xcel for its work in developing and constructing the project. Madden said ENMU-Roswell students enrolled in the Renewable Energy Technology program will utilize the site for training and younger students can tour the site during the school year for educational field trips.

The New Mexico Solar Energy Association calculates that solar panels spread across an area measuring 100 miles by 129 miles, receiving eight hours of sunlight a day, operating at 30 percent efficiency, could potentially power the entire United States.