

ORDER OF SAINT BENEDICT, INC  
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*Physical Plant*

June 1, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I affirm that solar field tours orchestrated through the Saint John's Sustainability Office and the Saint John's Arboretum have occurred regularly throughout the life of our on-campus solar farm, which began operation in December of 2009. This positive outreach and educational opportunity works toward informing our staff, faculty, and students about energy issues and has demonstrated to the local community the viability of large-scale solar installations in central Minnesota. Furthermore, this program has been extended to nearby higher education institutions such as St. Cloud Community College and St. Thomas University School of Engineering as a part of their curriculum.

Each one-hour tour hosts a discussion of how Saint John's values align with the stewardship aspects of conservation and clean energy production. The guide explains how the solar array was built and how it operates. Also discussed is the use of large-scale solar installations across the country, how their use differs between regions, and the different types of solar technology. Participants learn about the unique partnership between the landowner, purchaser, developer, and utility that made the project possible.

Sincerely,



Bill Boom  
Director of Physical Plant

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