

## Town Takes Second Solar Step

It has been one year since the Town's solar system for the Medical Clinic and Library became operational. During the past year the 18.2 kW solar system has saved the Town approximately 112% of the annual electricity used by those two facilities. This is approximately 24,500 kilowatt hours (kWh) at a savings of over \$3,000.

Now the Town is beginning the installation of a second solar system at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). This 22.42 kW system is expected to provide 101.7% of the MRF's annual electricity consumption or 26,787 kWh. The system will be mounted on the roof of the MRF building at a cost of \$49,900.

Lisa Potswald and her staff have prepared and submitted 4 grant applications for Town solar projects in the past year. They are batting 50%!! We have received \$25,000 for the WI Office of Energy Innovation and \$1500 from the Apostle Islands Area Community fund. The Energy committee has some funds in the Town budget for designated activities to add to this project. The supportive Town Board has agreed to fund the remainder and has authorized the Town to enter into a contract for the project's installation this summer.

The Energy Committee and the Town has pursued funding for three near-term projects: 1) the Town Hall, a 20.7 kW system costing about \$67,500, 2) the Emergency Services and Winter Transportation buildings, a 24.2 kW system costing about \$62,700 and 3) the MRF. The MRF was selected because it provides the most electricity and the lowest cost. The Town Hall is and remains the priority for the Energy Committee and the Town Board but it is the highest cost per unit of energy gained. This is primarily due to the required racking system for the Town Hall collectors.

Look for more information on the work of your Energy Committee in future Gazette issues. We will describe in more detail our longer term vision for on-island sustainable energy production—**the LaPointe Resiliency Project**.

Your Energy Committee is: Larry Bean, Glenn Carlson, Marty Curry, Zach Montagne, and Allan Hardie.