

THE CUTTING EDGE

GRUNAU METALS

Grunau goes "green"!

In line with our strong beliefs in LEED, sustainability, and green concepts, Grunau Company has completed the installation of a 20 kilowatt photovoltaic solar array at its Milwaukee location. The solar array consists of 88 photovoltaic panels covering roughly 25% of the roofs surface area. The panels are mounted to a docking system that sits directly on the roof membrane. These panels convert sunlight to DC electricity, which is transmitted via wiring and conduit to 4 inverters located within the building. The inverters take the DC electricity and convert it to an AC waveform synchronized with the power produced by the utility company. From there, the power is directly tied back into the grid and is used to offset the power consumed in the Office Building.



Grunau's photovoltaic array is an environmentally friendly technology that uses "free" energy from the sun. Unlike traditional power produced from coal or gas, the solar array will not emit noise or pollution. Grunau Company will reduce the amount of power consumed from non-renewable sources, and consequently reduce our own carbon footprint. Over its lifetime of 30 years, the power produced from the solar array will save 43,000 lbs of carbon from being dumped into the atmosphere that would have been produced from gas or coal sources. This amount is equivalent to the amount of carbons emitted from a mid-sized car driving two times around the Earth. Furthermore, over 3 acres of trees would need to be sustained to cleanse the carbon from the air during this same 30 year span.

In addition to the numerous environmental reasons for installing the solar array, there are many economical reasons as well. The array has an estimated payback of under 9yrs using conservative energy rates, tax credits and inflation. After the payback period, power generated will be "money in our pocket" and will generate positive revenues of over \$100,000. Grunau's system will generate enough electricity to offset 80% of its Office Building lighting load, or enough to completely power the Tool Room Building.

Nationally, only 4% of our power comes from renewable sources and there are goals of 20% of power from renewable sources by the year of 2020. The experience and knowledge gained in the install of our own solar photovoltaic array will help us to position ourselves in the rapidly expanding PV market. This will be another avenue for us to bring more value to our customers, and show we are very passionate about energy consumption.



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Grunau Company, Inc. 1100 W. Anderson Ct., Oak Creek, WI 53154
 Phone: (414) 216-6900 or (800) 365-1920 Fax: (414) 768-7950 | [Contact us](#)



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Protecting maintenance employees from accidental falls should be an important part of your company's safety plan.

