



Conserving our natural resources through education, demonstration, and collaboration.

Douglas Byrd Middle Celebrates the Power of the Sun!



On Friday, August 26, just before the clouds rolled in for the weekend's storm, Douglas Byrd Middle School and the Go Green Initiative celebrated the SUN with the inauguration of their new solar energy educational system.

Through a partnership with Sustainable Sandhills, the Go Green

Initiative was awarded a \$10,000 Youth Growth Stock Trust grant from United Way to purchase the solar panels and fund the installation.

The green ribbon cutting event began with music provided by the school's jazz band and guests were welcomed by Principal David Edwards before he introduced a few of the key partners who each spoke briefly about the project. Mrs. Kathy Miller, Director of Operations and the Go Green Initiative, shared a quote by Thomas Edison:



"I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that."

Other speakers included: James Wilson, Vice-Chair of Sustainable Sandhills; Chip Lucas, Executive Director of CCS Career and Technical Education; Robert Hines, President of United Way; and Scott Cole, manager of the Solar Division of Simmons Heating Cooling Electrical, Inc. Mr. Cole answered any questions about the system since he was the project manager. He also donated two additional solar panels to the project.



This 1.8 kilowatt system, made up of eight 230W SunPower panels, is tied to the school's electrical grid and is the perfect way to introduce students and adults to the world of solar power.

A dashboard located in the school's foyer allows students to monitor the unit's electrical production under various conditions.