

# Village will share solar energy usage information

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**RHINEBECK** — The Village Board has agreed to let solar energy usage at the Village Hall be monitored for marketing purposes.

Trustee Howard Traudt said during a board meeting on Tuesday that monitoring firm Enphase Energy made the request as part of its marketing campaign.

“They want to put us on the(ir) website as an example of a solar system that they are monitoring,” he said.

“The best way (to see village energy information) is to go on to our rhinebeckvillage.org website, and there’s a link there to see how much electricity is being produced at that moment or for that day,” Traudt said. “It goes back over the lifetime amount.”

Village officials said they will send a letter to Enphase Energy agreeing to the information being made public, but it will include an option to be removed if village officials become unhappy with the company.

The installation of 99 solar panels on the roof of the Village Hall was completed in December with a state Energy and Research Development Authority grant for \$142,313, including \$3,875 to pay Enphase Energy to monitor electricity production for five years.

Officials expect the solar panels to cover about a third of the village’s electricity needs, and early statistics show money is being saved.

A January 2011 bill, covering 1.2 months, showed the village used 10,936 kilowatt hours of traditional electricity at a cost of \$1,385.50. After the panels were operational, a January 2012 bill, covering one month, showed usage of 6,627 kilowatt hours of non-solar power at a cost of \$743.47.

A report on the Enphase Energy website states the village has produced 4.07 megawatt hours of electricity since December and has averaged 67 kilowatt hours per day for the past week. The company says the amount of electricity produced since December would power 134 houses for one day.