



News Release

For Immediate Release

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COULEECAP CELEBRATES 45 YEARS OF ENERGY CONSERVATION BY UNVEILING A NEW SOLAR ARRAY AND PROMOTING STATE WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

Couleecap has been a leader in energy conservation through weatherization and other energy programs for 45 years and on Wednesday, September 29, the organization announced how it will be using the power of solar energy to reduce its own energy burden.

Couleecap unveiled a new rooftop solar array at its office in Westby. The location is home to Couleecap administrative offices, all weatherization, emergency furnace repair or replacement, and other housing assistance programs. The array is expected to offset the building's energy consumption and save the organization an estimated \$7900 annually in energy costs, allowing Couleecap to reinvest back into programming to help the local community. The project was made possible by grants and donations from a Friend of Couleecap, Ethos Green Power Cooperative, WPPI Energy, Renew Wisconsin Solar for Good, and Wisconsin Focus on Energy.

“As a community action agency, we leverage local ideas and work alongside our neighbors to address poverty. The new solar array is an example, as demonstrated by the partnerships that made the project possible” says Hetti Brown, Couleecap Executive Director. “The collaboration has helped Couleecap move towards energy independence that we will reinvest into programming and services to the community.”

Couleecap hosted an event at their office to share information about solar energy production and savings, and offered demonstrations of the weatherization program, including equipment used to conduct energy audits and results of the program.

Alicia Leinberger from Ethos Green Power Cooperative, the solar installer for the project, attended the event. “Ethos was honored to work alongside our partners with Couleecap to power their office with solar, saving thousands of dollars every year, and show leadership in addressing our shared energy challenges.”

Over its 45-year history, Couleecap energy services programs have served 71,333 households in Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe, and Vernon Counties.



The Weatherization Assistance Program is administered by the WI Division of Energy, Housing, and Community Resources and provides low to moderate income households energy conservation services to help reduce energy costs and save energy. Once residents complete a WI Home Energy Application and are approved, Couleecap can complete a free energy audit to determine whether a home would benefit from weatherization. Weatherization services often includes insulation, sealing air leaks, installation of energy-saving products, and repair or replacement of inefficient furnaces or appliances. All the work is free of charge for the homeowner. To apply, residents can visit www.energybenefit.wi.gov.

October is Energy Awareness Month and Tom Mayne, Energy Services Director at Couleecap, explains that, “Energy conservation is not only good for the environment, but creates safe and healthy homes, lowers utility bills, increases water cost savings, and supports local jobs. Everyone can and should do their part.”

