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General Manager
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For Immediate Release
Contact Person: Jennifer Beaudette, Director of Member Services
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Barron Electric Members to Share in Solar Energy

Barron Electric Cooperative is proud to offer a new solar project called Community Rays. General Manager Dallas Sloan said, "We believe this is a great way to create more solar energy in northwest Wisconsin. Community Rays allows members to invest in affordable solar and receive benefits of being an owner of the cooperative. We are excited about this opportunity and have heard great feedback from our members."

Member Tom Frederickson said, "We were thinking about solar, but our lot was very wooded. It is nice to have an alternative fuel source." One member added, "I have been fascinated with electricity and was always interested in solar energy. I would encourage members to evaluate this option as electric costs continue to rise." Another member added, "We thought about going off the grid by using solar energy. This project is a realistic approach. We appreciate the cooperative's progressiveness."

Community Rays was developed for those members interested in an affordable option to purchase renewable solar energy. Members will have the opportunity to purchase a subscription unit at a cost of \$890 each. Each subscription unit is expected to generate approximately 385 kilowatt hours annually. A solar credit based on the energy production will appear on the subscriber's electric bills. During the construction phase, a \$300 deposit per subscription unit will be required to reserve a subscription unit. The balance will be due when the array is operational.

Carr Creek Electric, located in Hudson, Wisconsin, is installing the solar facility at Barron Electric's headquarters in Barron. The solar facility will be owned, operated, maintained, and insured by the cooperative. Solar is the fastest-growing source of renewable energy in America. The U.S. installed 1,330 megawatts of solar photovoltaics in the first quarter of 2014 to total 14.8 gigawatts of installed capacity, enough to power three million homes.

Barron Electric also offers an Evergreen Program. For as little as \$1.50 per month, members can support renewable energy by helping offset the additional generation costs. For those members interested in renewable projects at their home, wind and solar site assessments are available at a discounted price.

Barron Electric members interested in learning more about Community Rays should contact Melissa Klump, Member Technology Coordinator, at 800-322-1008 or memberservices@barronelectric.com. Members can also visit barronelectric.com for more information.
