

# BLUE MOUNTAIN CENTER



## THE BACKGROUND

Solar-electric power is generated from the conversion of sunlight into electricity through a photovoltaic (PV) or solar cell. Photovoltaics provide Power Naturally<sup>SM</sup> and reliably. While the initial system cost can be considerable NYSERDA has introduced an innovative program to make PV systems

**more affordable**  
and to encourage new PV installations through qualified system installers.

## THE STORY

Each year, the Blue Mountain Center welcomes writers and artists to its idyllic site on the shores of Eagle Lake in the Adirondacks. The Center's historic buildings, which date back to the late 19th century, become their temporary home and sanctuary – a place where they can work free from the demands and distractions of daily life.

So when the Center considered installing a photovoltaic system, two initial concerns arose. First, could it be installed in time for their summer sessions and, second, would it be designed to fit aesthetically with the character of the Center. The answer to both was: "yes." The Center worked with Solar Design Associates who designed and installed the system. Working closely with NYSERDA, the team was able to complete the job within two months from the initial site visit to final approvals and installation.

Ben Strader, Manager of the Center, says he was amazed at how smoothly the process went and how well the PV system works – a system with no noise, motors or moving parts which he calls, "charmingly simple." Because the main building is quite shaded, the solar panels were integrated into the boat house roof. Today, tour boats on the lake point out the PV system and can explain how the sun is helping to power the Center. It's also become a favorite destination for the artists in residence who stop by to find out how the system works. And, says Strader, it's spurred them on to implement other energy saving measures to increase the Center's efficiency.

**"Efficiency is really the answer; not only for us, but for the country. The PV system is a way to make people aware of how much energy we can save."**

– Ben Strader, Blue Mountain Center

**For more information call 1-866-NYSERDA  
or log on to [www.PowerNaturally.org](http://www.PowerNaturally.org)**

**Thanks to the NYSERDA Photovoltaic Incentive program, places like the Blue Mountain Center can install affordable PV systems. It's part of NYSERDA's commitment to help make New York State more energy efficient.**

## THE TEAM

- **NYSERDA:** funding and coordination of the photovoltaic incentive program, through the New York Energy \$mart<sup>SM</sup> program  
[www.nyserda.org](http://www.nyserda.org)
- **Solar Design Associates:** A NYSERDA "eligible installer" responsible for the design and installation of the Blue Mountain PV system  
[www.solardesign.com](http://www.solardesign.com)

## THE SYSTEM

The Blue Mountain Center PV system covers just under 1,000 square feet of south facing roof surface of the boat house and is comprised of 72 photovoltaic panels, 160 watts each. It's a 11.52kW DC system. The DC (direct current) power produced by the solar panels is converted into AC (alternating current) for use by the Center. The total AC power is estimated at 9.5kW. The total installed system costs are approximately \$95,000 and the NYSERDA incentive is \$46,080, or \$4.00 per watt.

## THE SAVINGS

The estimated annual output of the Blue Mountain system is 12,373 kilowatt hours. This system should **reduce the amount of energy purchased by about 75%.**

Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> will be **reduced by 13,500 pounds annually.**

