HEARTWOOD SOLAR PROJECT

HILLSDALE COUNTY, MICHIGAN:

A SHINING EXAMPLE OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Ranger Power began engaging private landowners in 2020 to develop a solar project in Hillsdale County, Michigan, that would take advantage of existing interconnection availability and also proximity to large load centers such as Hillsdale, Battle Creek, and Jackson. As these relationships and the project evolved, Ranger Power proactively established relationships with local officials, educating them about Heartwood Solar and the many benefits it would bring to Hillsdale County.

Now, after maintaining a steady presence in the community for more than three years, Ranger Power has built robust local relationships and strong community partnerships, in a region that continues to prove challenging for developing renewable energy projects.

HEARTWOOD SOLAR:

LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

Heartwood Solar is a proposed 150 MW utility-scale solar project located in Fayette and Allen Townships sited on private land. Representing a $150 million investment, Heartwood Solar expects to provide immense economic benefits to Hillsdale County over the duration of the project.

The facility is expected to generate approximately $17 million in tax revenue over the project lifetime, providing critical funding for local schools, libraries, fire and police, roads, and community services. Within the first year of operation, Heartwood Solar is projected to generate millions in tax revenue. During project construction, Heartwood Solar expects to provide 250 construction jobs along with a boost in local economic activity.

Community voices of support

"The Foundation is honored to assist Heartwood Solar in making an impact in the education at Jonesville Community Schools. This is an amazing example of a business and its individuals giving back to the community it serves."

~ Sharon Bisher
President and CEO
Hillsdale County Community Foundation

"We would like to thank Heartwood Solar for their partnership with our teachers. The two grants that were awarded just this year will go towards our new robotics course and a meal prep course for our resource room at the high school. These two programs will give our students hands-on experience that can assist them in the future. We are grateful for Heartwoods' commitment to enriching the education of our students."

~Erik Weatherwax
Superintendent
Jonesville Community Schools

HEARTWOOD SOLAR

A Community Focused Approach to Solar Development

As part of a proactive and community focused approach during the project's planning and development phases, Ranger Power worked diligently to establish long-term partnerships with local stakeholders and numerous community organizations.

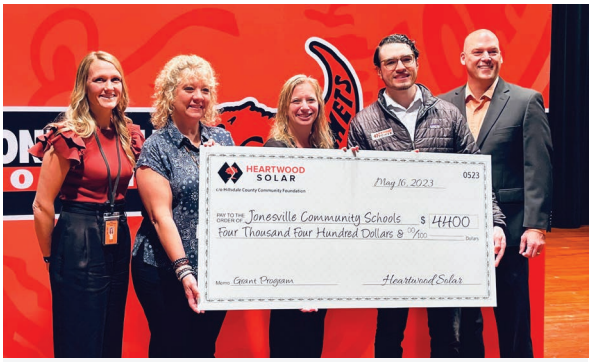
Through sponsoring annual Pork Suppers with the Jonesville Rotary Club, spring luncheons with the Economic Development Partnership of Hillsdale County, and Rural Education Day with the Hillsdale County Farm Bureau, the Ranger Power team created positive first impressions. These first impressions helped build trust in the community and strong relationships with stakeholders.

The development team established key local partnerships with organizations that were both reflective of and highly respected by the community, including the Hillsdale County Community Foundation, Economic Development Partnership of Hillsdale County, Jonesville Community Schools, along with local food pantries and other civic organizations.

Strong local partnerships are vital for success.

Heartwood Solar Grant Program works in conjunction with the Hillsdale County Community Foundation, with the shared mission to support and enrich educational programs and other projects that enhance the quality of educational opportunities for students enrolled in the Jonesville Community Schools.

The grant program will support a variety of school programs across all grade levels. The Heartwood Solar grant program will transition to a long-term endowment fund with the Hillsdale County Community Foundation upon the project's commercial operation. The Heartwood Solar Grant Program also provides regular funding for local food pantries to enhance food security.



Jonesville High School faculty members and District Superintendent welcome Spring 2023 educator grant funds from Ranger Power and HCCF.

Jonesville Mission program coodinator and volunteers obtain new summer food pantry funding from HCCF and Ranger Power.

A few examples of Heartwood Solar Project Community Sponsorships

- Hillsdale County Farm Bureau – Project RED/Rural Education Day and Annual Meeting
- Jonesville Rotary Club – Annual Pork Supper -Platinum Level
- Economic Development Partnership of Hillsdale County- Luncheon
- Economic Development Partnership of Hillsdale County- Student Robotics Training