



Submitted by: Jessica Bunker

Company/Organization: Resource Management, Inc.

Challenge or Opportunity:

What started as the need to re-shingle our roof became an environmental endeavor for Resource Management, Inc. (RMI), when we decided to install solar panels in a continuing effort to go green. “Our motivation originally was to just re-shingle the roof, but then we started looking around and said, ‘Hey, why not go solar?’” explained RMI President Shelagh Connelly. “For us, this is the extension of a green company getting greener,” said Connelly. “It’s part of our mission to be carbon neutral when we can. This was another step we could take to do our part for the environment.”

Approach or Solution:

The inspiration to go solar sparked a conversation with Sandra Jones of the Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative (PAREI). Formed in 2004 PAREI’s mission is “to encourage energy conservation and energy efficiency practices and to promote the use of renewable energy in the Plymouth, NH region.” Sandra helped us understand the different groups that needed to come together to make RMI’s solar conversion happen. A local team was organized by Ted Vansant of New England Commercial Solar Services. It took only two weeks for the team to install 92 260-watt solar modules made by Solar World, which will generate more than 27,000 kilowatt hours each year. Installation of the solar panels was completed on September 4, 2015.

Impact:

The electricity produced by solar energy emits no pollution. According to the National Renewable Energy Lab, on average, every 1,000 kWh of electricity generated by solar power reduces emissions by nearly 8 pounds of sulfur dioxide, 5 pounds of nitrogen oxides, and more than 1,400 pounds of carbon dioxide.

In addition to RMI receiving the monthly benefits of net-metering, this array will also generate at least 27 Renewable Energy Credits annually. NH Electric Co-Op (NHEC) must own a certain number of Renewable Energy Credits to meet NH’s Renewable Portfolio Standard and net-metered Co-Op members, like RMI, can help them meet their REC requirement by selling these credits to NHEC.