

Mountain Middle School cuts back carbon dioxide emissions



Installation of solar panels, LED lights save the school thousands

By **Mia Rupani** Staff writer

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One of the new classrooms in the energy-efficient addition at Mountain Middle School.
Mia Rupani/Durango Herald

Mountain Middle School continues to make strides in reducing its carbon footprint.

Since the installation of solar panels in 2016 and the completion of its energy-efficient addition in January, the school has generated more than 13,000 kilowatts of excess energy back into the electrical grid and avoided the creation of more than 180,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions.

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Those statistics and more are available on the [school's website](#). Shaw Solar leases 164 solar panels to the school.

"I would say 98 percent of our school is running off these solar panels. The heating, air conditioning, all of it," Head of School Shane Voss said.

The solar-powered expansion includes classrooms, meeting spaces and an exhibition hall. The older section of the building also was converted to run off solar energy.

Solar tubes, which capture sunlight using a rooftop dome and transfers it indoors through a reflective tube, were installed throughout the addition.

"As a school, we need to be the change we want to see in the world," Voss said. "The evidence of climate change is indisputable."