

Capitol, Executive Residence to harness solar power (4:37 p.m. 9/14/09)

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Solar panels are coming to the state Capitol and Executive Residence in Madison.

The State Capitol & Executive Residence Board Monday approved solar demonstration projects by Madison Gas & Electric for the two buildings.

The utility will place 48 panels, all financed by MGE, atop the Capitol's west wing. State Sen. Fred Risser, D-Madison, said the energy generated will go into the state's electrical grid and allow the state to build up its renewable energy credits. The panels are expected to generate more than 11,000 kilowatt-hours of energy per year.

Risser said the panels likely will be installed in November, and they will not be visible from the ground.

The state, meanwhile, will pay \$34,000 to install panels above the garage at the Executive Residence, but Risser said the energy generated will power the hot water heater, and should be paid back within 10 years.

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