

# Furman University Living, Learning Labs

## Summary:

In 2007 Furman signed the American Colleges and University's President's Climate Commitment, developed a Climate Action Plan, and committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2026, the university's bicentennial. Reaching this ambitious goal will require a transition from coal and natural gas to renewable energy sources like solar.

Furman has installed a number of solar installations around campus (the 92-kW rooftop array at the PAC, the 30-kW arrays at the Shi Center, and the 12-kW located next to the Townes Science Center) and recently constructed a 743-kW photovoltaic project on a six acre site near the campus's main entrance on Poinsett Hwy. This array is the largest solar project on a South Carolina college campus and brings Furman's total solar generating power close to the 1000-kW cap set by the state.

The solar farm together with the other solar arrays not only reduces the institution's carbon footprint and moves us towards carbon neutrality, but also provides valuable opportunities for faculty and students to see, visit, explore, and research solar power generation.



**Who to Contact:** The Solar Farm is jointly managed by the Facilities Department and the Shi Center. Contact Laura Bain at 864-294-3656, [laura.bain@furman.edu](mailto:laura.bain@furman.edu), or scan the QR code for information.



# On Campus Solar



## Ideas for Class:

- Assess the solar potential for energy production on campus and in our region.
- Discuss solar regulations and legislation in the state of South Carolina.
- Explore the time needed for a full return on investment and the projected savings generated for each array.
- See how electricity production from the arrays varies with the weather and time of year.
- Investigate the physics of solar power generation and panel design.
- Determine how best to market and message the presence of the solar farm.
- Use the panels as a set / backdrop for a student film.