

St. Meinrad Archabbey

All Phases

St. Meinrad, IN

PROJECT SAVINGS

5,127,483



Miles driven by an average passenger vehicle

2,173,43



Pounds of Coal Burned

230,072



Gallons of Gasoline Consumed

1,925



Acres of US forest in one year

DECARBONIZATION

PROJECT OVERVIEW

St. Meinrad Archabbey has undertaken a major multi-phase project to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption through various energy efficiency measures. These efforts are projected to generate an annual guaranteed savings of \$513,079, along with a utility rebate of \$300,000 and a potential federal rebate exceeding \$6 million. A key component of the project is the installation of a 1,884.8 kW solar array, which connects directly to the Archabbey's main electrical service. The solar panels power inverters that feed electricity into the campus's electric grid, significantly reducing the need for electricity from the local utility company. This system includes photovoltaic panels, inverters, and all necessary wiring and protective devices, along with a monitoring system to track energy production. In addition to the solar installation, St. Meinrad Archabbey has replaced their older lighting systems with energy-efficient LED fixtures, further reducing electricity usage. This upgrade includes new LED lamps and retrofit kits, as well as the replacement of non-LED exit and emergency lights. Recently, St. Meinrad included an additional project that involves replacing St. Meinrad's old steam boiler and chiller systems with a geothermal plant, which provides both heating and cooling. This involves drilling deep wells and installing advanced heat pumps, reducing reliance on traditional heating methods. Together, these efforts have resulted in significant cost savings—expected to exceed \$19 million over the next 20 years—while also making St. Meinrad Archabbey a model of sustainability and environmental responsibility.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- 1.8 MW solar energy
- Geothermal Central Plant
- LED Lighting
- Phase 1: Completed November 2021
- Phase 2: Estimated Completion March 2025
- Daily production monitoring
- Solar maintenance contract
- \$19 Million total savings over the next 16 years.

Scan the QR Code above to watch the drone footage from PH I of this project.



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