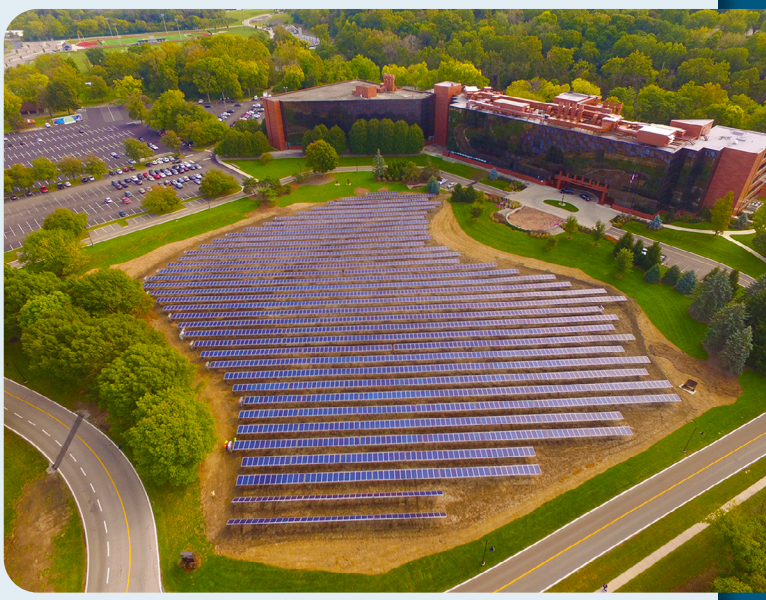
University of Dayton

Striving for Sustainability

As part of its commitment to sustainability, the **University of Dayton** in Ohio became a fair trade university and was the first Catholic university in the nation to divest from fossil fuels. This means UD is committed to renovating or building campus facilities that source power from clean energy, while providing a greener campus in which their students can engage. Solar energy plays a key role.



Solar Solutions

In 2018, Melink Solar collaborated with UD to install two arrays, totaling a combined **4,026 panels** with a capacity of **1.26 megawatts of power**. A ground-mounted array was installed at Curran Place, and a roof-mounted array was installed at Fitz Hall. As part of a long-term power purchase agreement, Melink engineered and constructed the arrays, selling the generated electricity to the university. The solar arrays provide nearly 10 percent of the power consumption of both buildings, as well as power electric car stations at each location. UD has the option to purchase the arrays after eight years. Students, faculty, and researchers participated in the installation of the modules and incorporated the sustainability project into research and curriculum.

Result

This project helped to define UD as a sustainability leader in the Midwest,as well as among universities. The ground-mount installation resulted in a stunning living laboratory complete with a prairie garden—one of the first in Ohio—to attract native pollinators. The site is home to 81 species of plants that keep the ground cool for panel efficiency, increase the habitat, and create an experiential learning space for students. The solar arrays provide about two percent of the power campus-wide and offset carbon emissions by about one percent annually. Over their 30-year lifespan, the university estimates a **$300,000 savings** and **prevention of 39,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide** being added to the atmosphere.

- 1.26 MW ground array with pollinator prairie featuring 81 plant species
- $300,000 savings over 30-year lifespan
- 39,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide diverted from atmosphere

ABOUT MELINK SOLAR

Melink Solar is based out of Cincinnati, Ohio and empowers leaders to kick-start their sustainability journeys. They work with Midwest businesses and organizations of all sizes to evaluate and implement onsite solar with roof mounts, ground mounts, and parking canopies. Melink Solar's goal is to help owners turn sunshine into savings and reduce carbon emissions. Since 2008, Melink Solar has designed and built over 300 MW of commercial and utility scale solar.