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**NorthWestern Energy and the National Center for Appropriate Technology  
Recruiting Communities for Solar Demonstration Project**

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**Butte, MT. – March 29, 2004 – NorthWestern Energy’ is recruiting ten Montana communities to participate in its new Sun4Communities project. The Sun4Communities project enables secondary schools, city and county government buildings to qualify for free solar energy systems.**

Sun4Communities is an expansion of NorthWestern Energy’s popular Sun4Schools project, which installed photovoltaic (solar electric) systems on 27 middle and high schools in Montana between 1999 and 2003. Sun4Communities draws on the strengths and popularity of that project, but adds city and county owned buildings, such as local government, courthouses and libraries to the eligible types of buildings. Middle and high schools are still eligible to participate.

The project has been developed, and is administered, by the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). The project is funded by NorthWestern Energy’s Universal Systems Benefits (USB) charge paid by the Company’s electric customers.

Ten communities will be selected to participate in the project. In order to qualify, buildings must receive their electricity from NorthWestern Energy and be owned by the city or county.

NCAT will install grid-connected photovoltaic systems, at no cost, on the rooftops of participating buildings. Each system will be capable of generating two kilowatts of electricity and will provide a portion of the building’s electricity needs, thus saving money for the community. Any excess electricity produced by the system will be fed into the utility grid through a net metering agreement.

In addition to saving money, the systems generate “green” electricity—which is less harmful to the environment than fossil fuel based energy systems—to save money, and to have an on-site renewable energy demonstration that can help others learn about the benefits of solar energy.

Sun4Communities is open to Montana communities that are electric customers of NorthWestern Energy. Buildings chosen to participate must meet basic site requirements including a roof that is adaptable for the installation of solar panels and an unobstructed southern exposure from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Interested communities must submit a completed application to NCAT. Deadline for applications is April 23, 2004.

To request an application packet, contact Cathy Svejksky at (866) 723-8677 or by email at [cathys@ncat.org](mailto:cathys@ncat.org) or download the application at [www.montanagreenpower.com](http://www.montanagreenpower.com).

***About NorthWestern Energy***

NorthWestern Energy, a division of NorthWestern Corporation, is one of the largest providers of electricity and natural gas in the Upper Midwest and Northwest, serving approximately 608,000 customers in Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska.  
[www.northwesternenergy.com](http://www.northwesternenergy.com)

***About the National Center for Appropriate Technology***

NCAT, a national non-profit organization headquartered in Butte, Mont., promotes small-scale, local, and sustainable solutions to reduce poverty, promote healthy communities, and protect natural resources.

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