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Onslow County Farmers' Market goes 'green' with solar panels

By: Kevin Reopelle

JACKSONVILLE, N.C. – The Onslow County Farmers' Market is going green. A grant from the state will make the market use solar power.

A day at the Onslow County Farmers' Market is full of food fresh from the farm and on Tuesday third grader Kamri Augheron was excited to learn all about it.

"So I can take care of the soil and plants and what helps the bugs," said Augheron.

Soon there will be something new for visitors to learn about. Last month, the North Carolina Green Business Fund granted more than \$24,000 to the farmers' market to install 30 solar panels on the roof.

The growing minds program has been going on for three years now. Logan Baumer, a Blue Creek Elementary third grader, says he's learning a lot during his field trip.

"You don't have to go to the store and buy stuff. You get the experience of growing. You learn more about nature and why it's important," said Baumer.

School children visit six stations to learn about different subjects but once the solar panels are installed they will become a seventh station. Peggi Garner, Director of the Onslow County Extension, says they will help educate folks about energy conservation and solar power.

"The TV that we will run when we have educational seminars when we have youth out here will be powered by the solar panels as well as the fans and lights in the farmers market," said Garner.

The farmers' market will begin installing the solar panels next month.

The Onslow County Farmers' Market is open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and on Thursdays at their Western Boulevard location from 12 to 6 p.m.

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