

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ASU Student's Dream to Help Others, Leads to Donation of a Renewable Energy System for Harrisburg Middle School.

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**Nadine Straitt, Executive Director of MAREH**

Nadine Straitt, the Executive Director for the Non-profit group Mission for Applications of Renewable Energy for Humanity, organized volunteers to design, build, and donate a solar powered renewable energy system, valued at two thousand dollars, for the Harrisburg Middle School. The system is capable of providing up to 1000 watt-hours a day of clean and safe renewable energy for students to use for science projects in their classroom or in support of their sustainable garden program at that school.

Nadine, a wind turbine technician who previously worked for Mitsubishi Power Systems of America, along with several other



Harrisburg Middle School students unveil their new solar panel array and weather station as Members of MAREH look on.

renewable energy experts from around the world have created a mission to bring renewable energy technologies to families and children who have no other source of electrical power.



Nadine Straitt constructs the stand of a solar panel array for the Harrisburg Middle School.

According to Nadine, the opportunity to work with the Harrisburg middle school and the Delta Garden Study was an important milestone for the organization. “With limited resources it is important to leverage each project we undertake. These solar panels and weather station will help with training the next generation of technicians, engineers, and business leaders on the importance of renewable energy to people around the world.”

The six-panel array will produce about 100 watts of solar energy; it was made by local volunteers to meet the specific educational needs of the Harrisburg Middle School and the Delta Garden Study. Students will be able to experiment with and apply solar energy to not only growing food, but also learning how solar energy can be used to power electronic devices such as their iPads and other appliances within the classroom.

While Nadine was working with Ryan Norman and Jill Zartman of the Delta Garden Study, other members of MAREH were discussing the importance of Renewable Energy Education with school officials. Walter Ellis a member of the MAREH Advisory Committee and educator, traveled from Washington DC to be a part of the unveiling and to meet with school officials about continuing the initiative begun today. Touring the school and student garden with Danny Sample, the Harrisburg School District Superintendent, Mr. Ellis was able to learn firsthand



Walter Ellis and Superintendent Danny B. Sample discuss expanding renewable energy education collaboration at the Harrisburg.

about the progress that was being made in science and technology education within the Harrisburg School District.

In between taking turns with students, shoveling paths to make the new raised bed garden plot, Jacob Holloway, a member of MAREH and Graduate Student of Agriculture at ASU, discussed the potential educational and vocational opportunities that the sustainable gardening



Jacob Holloway and Principal Karli Saracini look over the students work, while discussing the educational advantages of the sustainable garden program.

program offers Harrisburg Students, with school Principal Karli Scaracini. The integration of modern technology with good old fashion farming skills, is rebirthing multi-commodity farming, which has served as a vital part of the American economy for generations before going into decline. Jacob is interested in showing our young people how technology, integrated into the family farm to create a sustainable business, can offer them the real possibility of working and living in the community they grew up in after they graduate from high school or college.

According to Nadine, MAREH is looking to work more in the local area with underprivileged families and individuals to help them overcome economic disadvantage through the application of sustainable technologies. MAREH volunteers will be working with sustainable garden programs in Jonesboro to integrate renewable energy technology into their gardening processes for the coming spring growing season. For example, solar powered pumps can power drip-watering systems that distribute captured rainwater to the base of plants, where the water does the most good.

MAREH is also looking to coordinate the introduction of sustainable energy technologies internationally, where the focus will be on the positive social-economic changes that clean renewable power can bring to small rural communities. Imagine watching a child see running

water powered by an electric pump for the first time, or an electric light bulb lit at night to read a book by.

MAREH organizers hope to kick off a fund drive in the near future to help finance additional projects locally and internationally. For more information, you can go to [www.MAREH.org](http://www.MAREH.org).