

The Green Scene: Solar Panels

Every day the sun's radiant energy lights our sky and heats our air. It now also powers our greenhouse! We recently installed a system consisting of 120 solar panels on the roof of our largest storage building situated across the road from the greenhouse. The panels will generate around 53,651 kWh of energy with some fluctuation on overcast days. The greenhouse is linked to the system and consumes 64,220 kWh. On a sunny day, the energy generated by the solar panels will cover 84% of the greenhouse's energy needs. We will have a public dashboard where visitors can see the energy generated in real time. In ten years, the system is expected to pay for itself. Solar power is one of the cleanest forms of energy because the conversion of the sun's rays to electricity doesn't contribute to global warming by producing carbon dioxide.



Left to right: Jeremy Little, Michael P. Desplaines, NBG President & CEO, and installers from Convert Solar. Jeremy Little is part of our Facilities team and had the idea to take NBG off the the grid.

SAVE THE DATE

10th Annual Garden Heritage Celebration & the Garden's 80th Anniversary

**Saturday, October 20th, 2018
at 11am**

Join us for a ceremony in Baker Hall Visitor Center to honor the 220 African-American women and men who first planted the Garden 80 years ago through the Works Progress Administration.

Tram tour and reception to follow.

Free admission until noon.

OUR SOLAR PANELS:

- help save 781,339 pounds of coal from being burned and released into our atmosphere.
- prevent 1,692 barrels of oil from being burned
- help take the equivalent of 153 cars off the road each year
- solar production is worth planting 18,652 new trees

information provided by panel installer: Convert Solar

Community Connections



Fuse Fest

It was a true community event at Teens with a Purpose's 2018 FUSE Fest held in their Safe Creative Community Space off Church Street in Norfolk. This event celebrates the beauty, spirit and culture of the community through art, music, dance and interactive activities. This year's theme was *Living my Best Life* and NBG staff were on hand to chat with the public about the health benefits of cooking with fresh herbs and gave advice on how to grow them. Nearly 200 potted plants featuring NBG grown herbs and vegetables were given away to folks eager to start their own garden. The inner artist in kids and adults alike shined as they decorated their pots before taking them home.