

Post article 4-19-13 on Farmers Market Solar.jpg (JPEG Image, 1700 x 2338 pixels)

Market Place Pavilion gets solar array, car charging station

BY BEN CONLEY
The Dominion Post

"This is the first municipal parking lot in the state of West Virginia with solar power and electric vehicle charging. And I'm going to go out on a limb and say this is the first farmers market east of the Mississippi that is solar powered."

These words from Colin Williams, of Mountain View Solar, brought a cheer from the crowd gathered Thursday at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the solar array and electric car charging station incorporated into the Morgantown Market Place Pavilion at the corner of Fayette and Spruce streets.

The market place, which also features a rain-catch basin, will be

the home to the Morgantown Farmers Market each Saturday from May 4 through Nov. 2 and provide illuminated, covered parking year round by permit.

Along with Williams, Thursday's speakers included Aaron Sutch, from the Mountain Institute; Evan Hansen, of Downstream Strategies; Kathy Evans, of the Farmers Market Growers Association; Tom Arnold, with the Morgantown Parking Authority; and Morgantown Mayor Jim Manilla.

Evans said it has been a long journey from the Seneca Center parking lot, where the farmer's market began, to the new structure she called the envy of the rest of the state.



Jason Uchytospero/Dominion Post

Colin Williams, (left) vice president of sales and marketing with Mountain View Solar, talks with Morgantown City Manager Jeff Mikorski about the solar panels used on the new solar electric car charger at the Morgantown Market Place.

"Farmers are forever dependent on the sun to germinate and grow our crops; to dry our grains and our hay; and now the Morgantown Farmers Market is depending on it to light

the bounty of our harvest." Williams explained that the American-made solar panels installed on the roof by Mountain View Solar will produce about 3,700 kilowatt hours each year.