

By Karen Kozenczak Oct. 20, 2010

Des Plaines Mayor/City Salutes United Displaycraft and Solar Service



Pictured left to right) Rich Carrigan, President, United Displaycraft, Des Plaines Mayor Martin J. Moylan and Dan Kotowski, State Senator (33rd District), pose for a photograph in front of the solar panels on the roof of United Displaycraft.

Des Plaines Mayor Martin J. Moylan was amongst a group of local officials recently invited to observe and visit United Displaycraft, 333 E. Touhy Ave., where a 153-kilowatt solar electric system has been installed. United Displaycraft, an industry leader in design and retail displays, has partnered with Solar Services, Inc., Niles, in the development of a roof top solar system that converts usable sunlight into clean, renewable electricity. City officials and personnel from United Displaycraft and Solar Service climbed stairs to the roof of the Touhy Avenue facility where they observed the "Photovoltaic" (solar) modules.

Each module is comprised of several cells wired together in a series. When sunlight strikes the modules, electrons embedded in the cells generate an electric current. Wires from the modules carry the electricity into the facility where it passes through two inverters. The inverters change the electricity from Direct Current (DC) to Alternating Current (AC) and deliver it to the

building's main electrical panels. Solar energy is used immediately to satisfy the facility's needs.

When the array generates more than the facility needs, the energy is fed back into the grid for credit from ComEd.

The project was made possible by a 30% Illinois Solar Grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Community renewable Energy Program from the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and a 30% Tax Credit Grant from the Department of Energy. "We are extremely proud to have United Displaycraft located in the City of Des Plaines. Together, with Solar Service, they have shown how to operate an energy efficient, as well as, an environmentally friendly business. We salute their leadership," Mayor Martin J. Moylan said.