



## Iowa gas pumps tap solar energy

**Two gas stations in Iowa are harnessing solar power to save costs and preserve the environment, reported THonline.com.**

The Dubuque Quick Stop Mart at 1401 Central Avenue and IOCO station at 1998 Jackson Street, both owned by Waseem Serwar, are the first gas stations in the state to use solar panels.

The alternative energy promises to help the two establishments save more than \$3,260 per year on electricity costs.

Serwar also tapped into available state and federal tax credits that will offset nearly 50 percent of the \$64,000 project, which included the installation of more than 30 solar panels at Dubuque Quick Stop Mart and 24 more at IOCO station.

The solar tax credits given to businesses through the federal government will expire at the end of 2016.

Tim Mueller, president of the Dubuque-based Solar Planet Inc., pointed out that gas stations using solar panels can be a big contrast but it can also bring in another benefit.

"I think the petroleum industry can get a real boost in public image if they start using renewable energy at their stations," said Mueller.

Serwar will likely install solar panels as well at his two other convenience stores in Dubuque and Dickenville, Wisconsin if the solar energy project he has undertaken proves to be cost-effective.