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DINOSAUR MUSEUM REOPENS WITH NEW SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM

Blanding, UT – April 15, 2024 —Blanding’s Dinosaur Museum will open for the season this week with a new solar energy system, made possible through a \$50,000 grant from the San Juan County Clean Energy Foundation (SJCCEF). This generous grant was part of nearly \$300,000 distributed across San Juan County nonprofits in the last year through the SJCCEF.

“With the addition of the new solar system, the museum will now be able to work toward our goal of remaining open year-round for the benefit of school groups, community members and visitors,” said Sylvia Czerkas, the museum’s director. “Due to the cost of heating and electricity, we needed to close our doors throughout the winter months. We are now looking to install a new HVAC system which will run on the existing solar power. This will allow us to extend our annual days of operation.”

Utah is one of the more prolific areas for anthropologists and dinosaur enthusiasts in the country and the museum has long been recognized for its engaging displays and educational exhibits serving thousands of students and tourists each year. In addition, it contributes significantly to the local economy by boosting visitation to nearby hotels, restaurants and merchants.

“As we evaluate applications for funds, we look for local organizations that impact San Juan County,” said Robert Turk chairman of the SJCCEF. “We unanimously agreed that the Dinosaur Museum made an impressive case for their need to upgrade the HVAC. Solar is a great clean energy investment that will benefit the museum both in the short and long term. This museum is a valued resource for our community and San Juan visitors, and we are happy to support them.”

Installed by Utah tradespeople, the museum is closer to energy independence. The completion of the solar panels allows for the implementation of an HVAC system powered solely by solar. This will enable the museum to extend its season, while reducing the museum’s carbon footprint.

“We were thrilled when the foundation approved our request for funds,” added Czerkas. “When we saw the panels being installed, we simply couldn’t believe what we were seeing. We are so thankful.”

Managed by a community-based advisory board, the San Juan County Clean Energy Foundation, which receives funding from Energy Fuels and the White Mesa Mill, serves San Juan County, Utah and the Four Corners’ Region, providing grants supporting education, health and wellness, economic advancement, environmental and Indigenous initiatives. If there is an organization that could benefit from funds from the foundation, please visit <https://sanjuancountycleanenergy.org> to learn more.

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