SUNY Cortland campus takes another big step toward sustainability.

University leaders symbolically flipped the switch on a major solar energy project. The campus now has an array of 3600 new solar panels.

They're expected to generate about 6 percent of the energy used by the university. But more than that, educators say they're an important resource for students.

"On campus now we have solar systems at both the residential-scale size on Dragon Hall, at the commercial-scale size here, we have solar thermal, we have geothermal. The entire campus is now one giant laboratory for renewable energy," said Brice Smith, SUNY Cortland Physics Dept. Chair.

The solar panels were funded in part by a three million dollar grant from the state's NY-Sun initiative.