

Letter to the Editor

'Saving our air'

By George Burman, Madera

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Solar energy isn't just about saving money, it's about saving our air. Jon Alsdorf (letter, Dec. 14) doesn't see the logic in the city of Fresno "only" saving \$475,000 over the 25-year life of the system that was recently approved.

The 665kW system will produce about 1 million kilowatt-hours annually. That amount of energy generated by conventional (i.e., fossil fuel) means would result in more than 1 million pounds of carbon dioxide being injected into the atmosphere, not to mention several tons of sulfur and nitrogen oxides. While the elimination of these pollutants can't be measured as a "return on investment" percentage, the benefit to the environment is priceless. The savings in dollars is just frosting on the cake and shouldn't be the sole factor in determining the logic of the decision.

I am encouraged that the Fresno City Council had the wisdom to go for a plan that will have more than monetary benefit to the residents of the San Joaquin Valley.