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### Putney School's 1st 'home' game ever is today

*Reformer Staff*

PUTNEY -- The Putney School's boys basketball team will play in home games today and Wednesday, each at 4 p.m. Today's contest will be the first one the school has ever hosted on campus in its 75-year history. The Putney School, an industry leader among schools and colleges in its commitment to environmental sustainability through curriculum and practice, recently completed the nation's first "green" **net-zero** gymnasium -- one that promises to produce more energy than it consumes. The school invested \$7 million in the 17,000 square foot building, with Global climate change in mind.

"We can't count on skiing as our only winter sport anymore," said school director Emily Jones. "This is why we needed an indoor athletic space, and why we were committed to a building that would not contribute to further climate change."

The building is powered by a field full of photovoltaic solar panels, and heated by an air-source heat pump. The electricity it harvests is pushed to the grid in the summer and pulled back in the winter, creating a **net-zero** utility bill over the course of a year. It was designed by Vermont-based William MaClay Architects.

"Our students milk cows and chop wood, but they also learn the new technologies of solar power and heat pumps," said Jones. "This green building is one more tool in helping our students to become responsible stewards of the environment."

The addition of the Field House makes this winter especially historic, as the school's basketball team is able to play at home for the first time ever. Prior to this, students were forced to play either off-campus court or on a less-than-regulation size court located above the cow barn built in 1937. The new facility includes an open court for basketball and volleyball, a weight-training room and yoga and fitness space, ski waxing room, bike storage and repair space and a climbing wall.

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