Rapid Solar Installations Help Inland Empire Utilities Agency Further Renewable Energy Goals

**Challenge**

In its ongoing goal to power 100 percent of its operations with renewable energy by 2020, the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) sought to install multiple solar arrays across IEUA sites in less than a year to reap significant savings from federal and California state solar incentives.

**SunPower’s Solution**

Working with the IEUA, SunPower built five solar array systems totaling 3.5 MW on four facility sites. More than 18,000 interlocking solar tiles and panels were used during the buildout with an aggressive timeline of six months achieved by the SunPower teams.

**Customer Benefit**

The systems generate approximately 10 percent of the agency’s total electricity demand and from 2008 to 2016 have generated 44GWh of clean energy, the offset of which is equivalent to 74 million miles driven on California roadways, moving the IEUA closer to its goal to power 100 percent of its operations with renewable energy by 2020.

**Quick Facts**

- **3.5 MW at Five Sites**
  - Total System Size
- **SunPower® Oasis® T10 Tiles and T20 Trackers**
  - Installation Type
- **$3 million**
  - Projected 20-Year Savings
- **Approximately 18,350 homes**
  - Power Equivalent Over 30 Years
Capitalizing on Sunshine to Save on Emissions and Costs

Headquartered in the sunshine state of California, the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) is a leader in production of renewable energy through the use of biogas, solar and wind power. The IEUA provides water, industrial/municipal wastewater collection and treatment services, and other related utility services to more than 830,000 people across its 242-square mile district in San Bernardino County, and is committed to optimizing energy use and managing renewable resources.

The IEUA sought to capitalize on the 284 annual days of sunshine in the region by installing five solar arrays on its water treatment, composting and recycling sites in Chino, Ontario and Rancho Cucamonga. To meet the California Solar Initiative deadline, the IEUA needed to meet an aggressive timeline and have the sites be operational in less than a year.

SunPower's experience and reputation in exceeding customer expectations and producing high-efficiency solar systems ultimately led to their selection over five other solar providers. An added incentive for the IEUA was SunPower’s Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), offering no upfront expenditures and third-party financing.

In just six months the IEUA system was operational, and since its installation in 2008 it has consistently stabilized the agency’s energy costs and offset more than 23,000 tons of CO₂ as of 2016. Customers can easily track in real-time the energy generated through the solar arrays by following the online SunPower Performance Monitoring System.

“Our future strategy is to reduce reliance on the electric grid through maximizing renewable energy,” said Shields. “This is just one more step in meeting our goals to create a more sustainable community for us all.”

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