



COMPLETION DATE

December 2008

LOCATION

San Diego, CA

INSTALLATION TYPE

Rooftop fixed

SYSTEM SIZE (DC)

357.32 kW

TERM

20 years

SYSTEM AWARDS

- 2008 Orchid Award for sustainability by a non-profit
- 2009 SANDEE Award from the California Center for Sustainable Energy

PROJECT PROFILE

Point Loma Nazarene University

Solar Power Partners developed a 357 kW solar energy system for Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU) in San Diego, California, using a solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). PLNU purchases power generated by the system from SPP, who owns, operates, and manages the system. The award-winning solar system is an excellent example of a university embracing solar without spending capital.



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DESCRIPTION

Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU) is a selective liberal arts university in San Diego, CA, with a picturesque ocean-side location. PLNU has a long-term goal of attaining 20-30 percent green power for the campus before the year 2015, and needed a renewable energy solution that would be cost-effective to implement. PLNU students worked with the campus' sustainability department and PLNU administration to participate in the RFP process as part of a class project.

APPROACH

Experience with schools and universities, transparent system modeling, and a streamlined development process made Solar Power Partners an excellent choice for PLNU's solar plan. The solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) allows SPP to own, operate, and manage the solar energy system, selling PLNU the power. The PPA required no cash from the PLNU, and none of the operation or maintenance responsibilities. SPP partnered with EPC contractor SPG Solar, Inc. to engineer, design, and construct the system on the roofs of four campus buildings.

RESULTS

The system was the first solar implementation for the university. The power generated from the system allows a portion of the university's electric bill to remain stable for the life of the 20 year agreement. Point Loma Nazarene University has become a community leader in sustainable energy. The solar system won the university a 2008 Orchid Award for sustainability by a non-profit, and PLNU also received the 2009 SANDEE Award from the California Center for Sustainable Energy, which recognizes outstanding projects that achieved significant energy savings through the implementation of energy efficiency, energy conservation, or renewable energy in San Diego County.

The estimated annual production from the system is equivalent to removing the following emissions from:



371 metric tons of carbon dioxide



52 homes' electricity use



42,111 gallons of gas

“For many years we examined proposals to install solar panels on our campus but we just could not cost justify the proposed projects. Our participation in a Power Purchase Agreement with Solar Power Partners made the difference in deciding whether or not we could implement the solar power project that we hoped to build. We hope to continue our quest to provide more green energy to the campus reducing our carbon footprint. If PPA instruments are available in the future, we will be able to realize expanded growth in the area of 'green power.'”

Richard Schult,
Physical Plant Director
Point Loma Nazarene University



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