COMPLETION DATE
January 2010

LOCATION
Middlebury, CT

INSTALLATION TYPE
Rooftop fixed

SYSTEM SIZE (DC)
158.60 kW

PROJECT PROFILE

Westover School

Private Girls' High School Sets Nationwide Benchmark for SPP

Solar Power Partners (SPP) developed a 158.60 kW solar rooftop system for Westover School, a private girls' high school in Middlebury, CT. Westover entered into a solar Power Purchase Agreement with SPP, assisted by a grant from the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund. The system adds to SPP's growing list of successful partnerships with schools and universities, and is the first system on the east coast.

DESCRIPTION

Westover School investigated offsetting electrical costs through alternative energy, and wanted methods that would serve as a lesson in sustainability to students. Westover embarked on a solar project with Solar Power Partners, who contracted with Alteris Renewables to design, engineer, and construct the system. Under the terms of the solar Power Purchase Agreement, SPP owns, operates, and maintains the system while selling the solar-generated electricity to Westover.

APPROACH

SPP worked with partner Alteris Renewables to design, engineer, and install the system, a portion of which was installed on the roof of a dormitory that was built in 1909. The historic dormitory us a great example of our past and present.

RESULTS

The project represents a significant benchmark for SPP: it is the first system to be commissioned outside the west coast. The system also contributed to Westover students' participation in the Green Cup Challenge (GCC), a student-driven energy challenge that invites schools to measure and reduce electricity use. With 2010 being Westover School's centennial celebration year, the completion of the solar system and contribution towards campus-wide carbon footprint elimination marked a new chapter for a greener school.

PUBLICITY

Together with Westover, Alteris Renewables, and Connecticut Innovations, which manages the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, SPP participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony that showcased the students' commitment to renewable energy. Local press were invited and a nationwide press release was issued. The event also showcased student participation in the Green Cup Challenge.

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

130 metric tons of carbon dioxide

14,600 gallons of gas

3,333 trees planted

Calculations are according to the US Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov)

SOLAR POWER PARTNERS

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