

Solar Case Study: Food For Thought Non-Profit



Food for Thought Profile:

Food for Thought is dedicated to meeting the nutritional needs of men, women and children living with HIV in Sonoma County. From their food bank in downtown Forestville, FFT provides groceries, nutritional supplements, prepared meals, nutritional counseling and housing support to over 500 clients.

Visit: www.fftfoodbank.org.

The Challenge: A 40% electricity rate increase and declining government funding put a financial squeeze on Food for Thought (FFT), Sonoma County's AIDS Food Bank.

The Solar Solution: Solar Works designed and installed a 30-kilowatt (kW AC) photovoltaic (PV) system to take advantage of FFT's large, south-facing roof.

The Results: The PV system offsets nearly 100% of FFT's electric bill; instead of paying around \$1,000 each month to PG&E, they now pay \$9 per month. More than \$10,000 per year in savings are now freed up for direct client services. Just as important, FFT has permanent relief from future rising energy costs. In addition, their 55,000 kWh (kilowatt-hour AC) of solar electricity keeps over 26 tons of CO₂ out of our atmosphere annually, equivalent to over 20 acres of fir trees storing carbon each year.

Solar Specifications

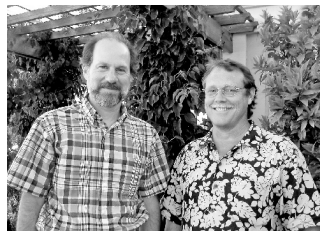
Electricity Now Supplied by Solar: approximately 100%

System Size (CEC Rebate Rating): 30 kW

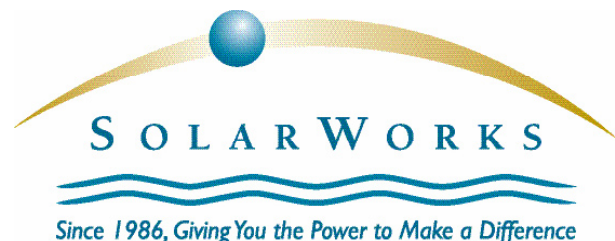
Solar Panels: 180 panels, nominally rated at 190 watts each

Inverters: Five SMA Sunny Boy 6000-watt, grid-tied

Mounting System: UniRac



"They are neighbors and a great local company we know we can trust," says Ron Karp, Executive Director. "We've already received so much volunteer and in-kind support for the agency from Solar Works."



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