

Solar Case Study: Vintage House



Vintage House Profile:

Vintage House has been an integral part of the Sonoma community since 1977. A short distance from Sonoma's town plaza, the senior center offers a wide variety of classes, services and special events, in partnership with many local programs and organizations. For additional information, visit: www.vintagehouse.org

Solar Specifications

Electricity Now Supplied by Solar: up to 40%
System Size (CEC Rebate Rating): 32kW
Solar Panels: 240 panels, nominally rated at 160 watts each
Inverters: Fifteen 2500-watt Sunny Boys, from SMA, grid-tied
Mounting System: UniRac

"We're always looking for ways to control costs as we serve the needs and interests of our local 55+ population," says Cindy Scarborough, Vintage House Executive Director. "Even better, by going solar we can also lessen our impact on the environment and serve as an example to our community."

Pieter Goedewaagen, Vintage House's Solar Project Coordinator, says, "Going solar made good sense to us. After attending a Solar Works workshop, I was convinced of the potential benefit we could gain by installing a large PV system."

The Challenge: Vintage House, a non-profit community center that serves over 2000 seniors each year, needed a long-term solution to its rising energy costs.

The Solar Solution: Solar Works installed on the Vintage House roof a 32.5 kilowatt (AC) photovoltaic (PV) solar electric system that supplies nearly 40% of the center's electricity needs.

The Results: The system produces approximately 50,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh AC) annually and prevents about 24 tons of CO₂ emissions from entering the atmosphere, equivalent to 18 acres of fir trees storing carbon each year. "Everyone here is excited about our new PV system's potential for improving our efficiency of operation and contributing to a healthier environment," reports Cindy Scarborough, Executive Director.



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