

# Solar Case Study: Sebastopol City Hall



## City of Sebastopol Profile:

Sebastopol is committed to reducing the carbon footprint for all of its municipal facilities. In addition, Sebastopol City Council created Solar Sebastopol, a local solar advocacy group that has a goal of installing one megawatt

## Solar Specifications

**Electricity Now Supplied by Solar:** approximately 97%  
**System Size (CEC Rebate Rating):** 10.6 kW  
**Solar Panels:** 56 panels, nominally rated at 215 watts each  
**Inverters:** SMA Sunny Boy one 5000-watt and one 6000-watt, grid-tied  
**Mounting System:** UniRac

**The Challenge:** Meeting Sebastopol's City Hall goal of 100% emissions offset with a limited amount of roof space. Another installation challenge: the roof's sprayed-on foam exterior insulation.

**The Solar Solution:** Solar Works designed and installed a roof-mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar electric system that is expected to supply nearly 97% of City Hall's electricity needs. To meet the space limitations, Solar Works selected high-watt-density, high-efficiency SunPower panels. To handle the "foam roof" mounting, Solar Works relied on its 21 years of installation and roofing expertise—one reason it has never had a call-back for a leak caused by a roof mount.

**The Results:** The City Hall solar system, commissioned in July 2007, is expected to produce 18,500 kilowatt-hours (kWh AC) annually, keeping about nine tons of CO<sub>2</sub> out of our atmosphere annually, equivalent to over six acres of fir trees storing carbon each year. City Hall is one of six City of Sebastopol solar installations completed by Solar Works.

*"The installation of solar on City Hall is one of many steps Sebastopol is taking towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The City is shifting our energy source from fossil fuels to renewable energy."*

*-Sam Pierce, Mayor of Sebastopol.*



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