

Serengeti® Solar Solution Provides Efficient, Cost-Effective Power Source For Fruita Community Center



Visitors to the brand-new Fruita Community Center are invariably awed by its state-of-the-art amenities, including a water-slide, fountains and hot tub. But on the facility's rooftop is the most impressive feature of all: 442 solar panels that capture energy directly from the sun. Thanks to a budget-friendly, all-in-one solar solution from SunPower, the City of Fruita was able to produce clean, renewable energy while delivering the best-possible services to its residents.

BENEFITS

- Reduces facility's energy load by 30%
- Carbon emissions will be reduced by 6,985,000 pounds over 30 years; the equivalent of planting 750 trees or removing 630 cars from the road
- Ensures predictable, affordable energy rate for the city
- Industry-leading 10-year product warranty and 25-year power warranty protects investment

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Location: Fruita, CO

Completed: December 2010

Installation Type: Rooftop

System Size: 100 kW

PV Surface Area: System covers 11,380 sq. feet over three rooftops (two flat, one sloped)

Number of Panels: 442

Products: Serengeti Solar Panels, T10 racking system

Financing: Power Purchase Agreement through Hybrid Energy Group, LLC

"We went with the Serengeti panels because of SunPower's reputation, our confidence in the quality of their products, and the financial strength of the company. The Serengeti panels have already beaten our performance expectations."

-Ted Ramsey,
Director of Energy Services
Hybrid Energy Group, LLC

COST-EFFECTIVE RENEWABLE ENERGY NEEDED

Fruita City leaders were firm in their wish to leverage renewable energy sources for the new Community Center, and identified solar power as the ideal solution. "We wanted to be environmentally responsible, without increasing our operating and capital expenses," said Ture Nycum, Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Fruita. "If we had to buy the solar system outright, it would have taken away from other parts of the project."

SOLAR SOLUTION IS IDEAL

Looking for the solar installer with the most experience and a proven financing mechanism, the City put out a request for proposal. SunSense, Inc. in Carbondale, CO was awarded the contract based on its ability to engage Hybrid Energy Group, Inc. as the financier on a power purchase agreement (PPA), as well as its commitment to installing an end-to-end SunPower solar solution. "With SunPower the City got the entire package: the Serengeti solar panels, integrated racking system, inverter and monitoring devices," said Scott Ely, SunSense President. "The Serengeti panels were perfect for the load distribution on the roof, and they have a really sleek look. Plus, their easy integration to the T10 racking system delivers a seamless, easy-to-install rooftop solution without any penetration into the roof."



A WIN FOR ALL

Under the terms of the PPA, Hybrid Energy owns the solar arrays and will receive all associated Renewable Energy Credits. Fruita will purchase the electricity produced by the system at a set rate per kilowatt-hour; the same unit of measure on their standard utility bill today. Said Ely, "The affordable Serengeti panels and the PPA allowed us to contain the City's costs, and keep the project moving forward. This was the perfect solution for a non-space-constrained roof-space such as the new community center."

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