

City of Vacaville

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM ONLINE AT VACAVILLE CORP YARD

A new solar system designed and built to provide enough energy to power several buildings in the City of Vacaville Corporation Yard is now operational.

The arrival of a "Permission to Operate" letter from Pacific Gas & Electric last week was the final step in the process to bring the City's newest photovoltaic system online.

"This system will provide 100 percent of the electrical cost offset for the Transit Administration Building, the Streets and Roads Building, the Transit Yard, Bus Wash and CNG Fueling Station," said Brian McLean, Transit and Fleet Manager for the City of Vacaville. "The electrical savings derived from this project will aid our Transit Department in annual budgetary savings, allowing us to remain a financially sustainable transit agency."

This system joins two others owned by the City of Vacaville: one on the roof of City Hall (39kW) and another at the Bella Vista Park and Ride Lot (45 kW). Those solar arrays help offset the cost of EV-Charging Stations at both locations, and can even feed power back into the electrical power grid.

Construction began on the latest 59 kW system in March, and was completed in May. The total cost of the project, after rebates, was \$234,000. The panels have a 25-year service life. Based on current costs, the panels will pay for themselves in eight years, meaning at least 17 years of cost-free electricity.

DRI Energy of San Leandro, California designed, built and installed the system.

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“DRI Energy is pleased to have worked with the City of Vacaville to build their third solar system,” said Steve Kelley, Executive Vice President of DRI Energy. “We applaud their commitment to providing both environmental and economic sustainability and see them as a role model for cities everywhere.”

In 2009, the Northern California Solar Energy Association honored the City of Vacaville for its commitment to alternative energy. Vacaville was ranked second among cities with populations between 25,000 and 100,000 for total watts installed in 2008 with 1,556,936 watts (1.56 megawatts). Vacaville ranked fourth overall in Northern California in watts per capital with 16.09. Novartis, a pharmaceutical company with a manufacturing plant in Vacaville, dedicated a 1-megawatt solar array in 2009. Other large companies in Vacaville with solar arrays include the Mariani Packing Company, ALZA and the State Compensation Insurance Fund.

ABOUT DRI ENERGY: DRI Energy leverages over 30 years of roofing and construction experience in setting the industry standard for quality solar solutions and construction, including leading safety practices. DRI Energy has built strong partnerships with top technology manufacturers and leading financing partners to ensure site-appropriate, high value solar solutions. Beginning with comprehensive analysis and design with an eye to total roof system and site integrity, DRI Energy offers customers the most comprehensive approach to solar in the industry. DRI Energy Corporation, headquartered in Irvine, California, is one of four wholly-owned subsidiaries of DRI Companies, a privately held company and one of the most respected roofing contractor in the United States for over 30 years. DRI Companies’ clients include Alcoa, Boeing, Costco, Home Depot, Longs Drugs, Macy’s, Target, NASA and the United States Navy. DRI Energy’s sister company, Lumeta, provides innovative BIPV products. For more information visit www.dricompanies.com

Project Specifications

Project site address: 1001 Allison Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687

Project Size (kW- DC): 59kW **Project Type:** Roof Mount

Tilt: 5 degrees **Inverter:** SatCon Technology:PVS-50 (480 V)

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Module specifications: Solar Power (SPI):SP205FP52 **Number of modules:** 288

Racking: ProSolar RoofTrak and SolarWedge

Estimated annual production (kWh first year): 78,211

Environmental offsets:

Based on annual production-first year:

Annual greenhouse gas emissions from 10.7 passenger vehicles

CO₂ emissions from 6,318 gallons of gasoline consumed

CO₂ emissions from 131 barrels of oil consumed

CO₂ emissions from .75 tanker trucks' worth of gasoline

CO₂ emissions from the electricity use of 6.8 homes for one year

CO₂ emissions from the energy use of 4.8 homes for one year

Carbon sequestered by 1,440 tree seedlings grown for 10 years

Carbon sequestered annually by acres of pine or fir forests

Carbon sequestered annually by 12 acres of forest preserved from deforestation

CO₂ emissions from 2,340 propane cylinders used for home barbeques

Greenhouse gas emissions avoided by recycling 18.9 tons of waste instead of sending it to the landfill

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