



COMPLETION DATE

December, 2008

LOCATION

El Segundo, CA

INSTALLATION TYPE

Ground tracking and elevated shade

SYSTEM SIZE (DC)

601 kW

PROJECT PROFILE

BT (British Telecom)

BT (British Telecom) began a corporate initiative to reduce carbon emissions, and key to that mission was incorporating solar energy at their North American corporate headquarters in El Segundo, CA. Choosing to purchase solar power rather than the power plant, BT entered into a solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with SPP, which required no capital outlay or maintenance and operation expenses from BT. The result is a beautiful 601 kW system that produces 15-20% of BT's current energy needs for its El Segundo offices and network operating center.



DESCRIPTION

BT has a long-term corporate initiative to play a leading role in reducing carbon emissions generated by both businesses and individuals. As part of its efforts to reduce its own emissions and serve as a model for its suppliers and customers, the company chose to incorporate a solar energy facility at its North American corporate headquarters. The solar facility would contribute to BT's goal of reducing 80% of its carbon emissions globally by 2020.

APPROACH

BT saw, like many corporations and private entities, that one of the most attractive ways to finance a large-scale solar facility was to enter into a solar Power Purchase Agreement, an arrangement that requires no up-front capital. Instead, SPP analyzes, finances, oversees design, engineering, and construction, and operates the system. BT buys the power produced by the system, while monitoring and operation is performed by SPP.

CHALLENGES

From soil sensitivity to designing an alternative to costly steel, SPP's engineering and construction team worked closely with partners Suntech Energy Solutions to source materials that were cost-appropriate and structurally superior.

Because the campus serves as BT's North American corporate headquarters, the system also needed to be aesthetically pleasing, while meeting the comfort level of neighboring buildings.

RESULTS

The solar project was announced at a ground-breaking ceremony with HRH Prince Andrew in February 2008 and completed in December 2008. The system produces 15-20% of BT's current energy needs for the El Segundo campus. The system consistently produces at and above expectation.

The estimated annual production from the system is equivalent to removing the following emissions:



706 metric tons of carbon dioxide



98 homes' electricity use



80,136 gallons of gas

“Thanks to our partnership with Solar Power Partners, BT is now not only significantly reducing carbon emissions — we're realizing reduced power costs for our site as well as helping our company fulfill its very ambitious corporate social responsibility goals.”

Jon Reiter
Senior Director, Major Transactions,
BT Americas



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Calculations are according to the US Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov)