



Southern California Edison Backgrounder

Contact: Corporate Communications: 626-302-2255, www.edison.com/pressroom



Southern California Edison - Advancing Solar Power

Southern California Edison (SCE) has been the nation's leading purchaser of solar power since the 1980s. In 2008, the utility bought and delivered to its customers 65 percent of the nation's solar energy – 730,000 megawatt (MW) hours of clean generation. SCE is involved in the advancement of all major forms of solar power:

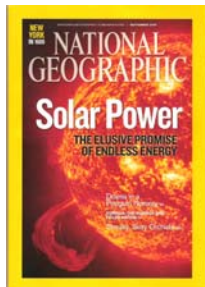
- steam-based systems such as parabolic trough and power tower;
- photovoltaic systems including thin film, crystalline, and concentrating photovoltaic; and
- Stirling engine systems.



SCE's Game-Changing Solar Project

In June 2009, SCE received regulatory approval for the nation's largest solar panel project. 500 MW of advanced photovoltaic generation are being installed on the otherwise unused roofs of large Southern California commercial buildings. 250 MW will be owned and operated by SCE and the remaining 250 MW by independent solar project developers. The project was prompted by advances in solar technology as well as innovative installation and procurement practices that have lowered the cost of installed photovoltaic generation. When combined with the unprecedented size of SCE's project, the resulting cost per unit will be roughly half that of common photovoltaic installations in California. SCE believes the project could help drive down installation costs of photovoltaic generation for everyone. SCE's first two solar installations are already generating power for homes and businesses in Fontana and Chino (pictured above), Calif.

The Sept. 2009 issue of National Geographic Magazine included the SCE project in a profile of worldwide advances in solar generation.



California's Solar Initiative

SCE is a program administrator for the California Solar Initiative. As of November 2009, SCE had provided \$200 million to 7,500 customers to help them add solar generation to their homes and businesses, installations that will result in 131 MW of clean electricity.

Other examples of SCE's involvement in solar power projects during the past two decades:

Solar Neighborhood Program

During the 1990s, SCE installed photovoltaic systems at schools and universities such as the University of California, Irvine, Cal Poly Pomona, civic centers and amusement parks such as Pacific Park, Santa Monica Pier (see below), and Knott's Berry Farm.

Solar-Powered Ferris Wheel

The photovoltaic system, designed, manufactured and installed by SCE at the Santa Monica Pier, is the world's first solar-powered entertainment ride.



Schools

SCE installed photovoltaic systems at two elementary schools providing multiple energy benefits including student instruction, self-generation, and shelter for outdoor lunch areas.

Science Center

Working with the Department of Energy and the California Energy Commission, SCE installed photovoltaic panels at the Discovery Science Center, saving the center approximately \$8,000 annually on its electricity bill.

Solar Two

In 1992, SCE formed a consortium of U.S. utilities and high-tech industries, along with the U.S. Department of Energy, the California Public Utilities



Commission and the California Energy Commission, to construct, operate and maintain a \$53 million, 10-megawatt concentrated solar power tower project in Daggett, Calif. From 1996 until 1999, Solar Two demonstrated the technical feasibility of using a molten salt receiver and a thermal storage system to store and deliver large-scale solar energy into the grid.

1109GA