



Southern California Edison Backgrounder

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Helping Transform Solar Power

Southern California Edison (SCE) has been involved for more than two decades in the advancement of solar power, including steam-based systems such as parabolic trough and power tower, photovoltaic (PV) systems, including thin film, crystalline, concentrating and photovoltaic; and Stirling engine systems. As a part of this advancement of solar generation, in 2008 the utility launched a solar PV program that will lead to creation of a network of neighborhood roof- and ground-mount solar power plants.



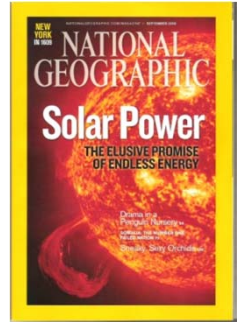
A Game-Changing Solar Energy Idea

SCE generation planners identified what appeared to be an untapped opportunity to rapidly develop significantly more solar generation to help meet California’s aggressive renewable energy goals. Solar advances were observed at both ends of the size spectrum – smaller installations on the rooftops of homes and small businesses, and larger central station installations in remote areas – but little activity was taking place developing one-to-10-megawatt installations. The utility’s service area included an abundance of large structures with limited power use, for example, distribution warehouses. Owners of such buildings had little incentive to offset electricity costs by installing solar arrays.

These market observations led SCE to propose leasing available roof and ground space and building solar stations that would serve all utility customers. SCE concluded that such a project could help drive down the installed cost of photovoltaic generation for everyone.



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



That vision is becoming reality. Fifteen neighborhood solar stations are now online and others are in the construction and planning stages.

Working with Leading Facility Developers

SCE has rooftop lease agreements related to its solar PV program with leading providers of distribution facilities, including Prologis, AMB and Kennedy and ground lease agreements with communities such as Porterville, Calif., and educational institutions such as the College of the Desert in Palm Desert, Calif.

And with Leading Technology Developers

SCE is working with a number of suppliers to acquire paneling and support hardware best suited for the types of installations it is developing. For example, SCE is using the SunPower T5 Solar Roof Tile product for some of its solar stations, a product that integrates into a single unit a solar panel, frame and roof mounting system, thereby reducing installation time and costs.



Green Collaborations



SCE’s solar PV project provides an opportunity for sustainability-minded communities and businesses to collaborate.

“Two of our highest goals as a city are to encourage job creation and to build a greener tomorrow for our residents and future generations,” said Redlands Mayor Pete Aguilar (center, speaking to SCE project head Mark Nelson). “Southern California Edison’s solar project has supported both goals by making available 120 construction jobs and adding to our energy resources three power plants that are silent, emission-free and use a renewable fuel source.”

“Our partnership with SCE makes sense in many ways; by bringing together a large rooftop owner and a utility, we have achieved the speed and scale that was necessary to make a true impact on the rooftop solar industry,” said warehouse developer Prologis Senior Vice President Mike Englhard (left).