

Success Stories



Project Details:

Location:

701 E State Street
Athens, OH 45701

Project Contact:

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Technologies:

225 kW solar photovoltaic system

Funding Source:

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act –
State Energy Program

Incentives:

\$631,637

Total Project Costs:

\$1,401,108

Energy Impacts:

- Producing 25 percent of annual energy needs
- Generating more than 250,000 kWh of electricity annually

Economic Impacts:

- \$20,000 cost savings per year
- Jobs created or retained: 70 FTE's*

Environmental Impacts:

- Reduced CO₂ emissions by more than 380,000 pounds per year, which is equivalent to taking 34 cars off the road.

Athens Community Center



Background:

The Community Center has been a focal point in the city's efforts to go green. The City of Athens has an energy-efficiency initiative that will make improvements to the Community Center as well as some other locations around town. The initiative will have much of the lighting in the center retrofitted for efficiency as well as include mechanical upgrades to heating and cooling systems, automation of thermostats, and the installation of high-efficiency, double-pane windows. The City's next step was to install solar panels.

Challenge:

The City of Athens contacted SolarVision, an Ohio company that promotes the deployment of solar energy by providing power purchase agreements. In a power purchase agreement, SolarVision installs, owns and maintains the photovoltaic system on a site, and the site owner pays SolarVision for the energy that the system generates. SolarVision makes solar projects possible by removing all upfront costs.

Solution:

SolarVision installed a 225 kW solar array on top of four carports in the Athens Community Center parking lot. These structures not only provide electricity for the center, but also provide covered parking for its visitors.

"This project will create new jobs, increase our energy independence and further strengthen southeastern Ohio's position as a leader in the development of clean and renewable energy."

-State Representative Debbie Phillips

*Job creation numbers are based on direct jobs created or retained using Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) hours.



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