



## Valley Sanitary District switches to clean, more affordable energy.

The Valley Sanitary District in Indio, California turned to the sun as an alternative source for cleaner and cheaper electricity in 2016. The District signed a 20-year power purchase agreement with SolarCity to supply energy at a fixed rate that's lower than what its local utility company currently charges.

The project includes a fixed-tilt ground-mount system at the District's Water Reclamation Facility, which serves portions of the City of Indio, the City of Coachella and Riverside County.

The solar project consists of more than 3,200 panels and is expected to save the Valley Sanitary District about 35 to 40 percent of its facility energy costs compared to traditional utility rates.

What was once unused space has now been repurposed to generate more than 1.0 MWh of energy annually, saving the District and its customers money. The system is expected to offset more than 15,000 metric tons of carbon emissions over the next two decades - the equivalent of removing more than 3,200 cars from the road for a year. The system is also slated to avoid the use of more than 684 million gallons of water that would otherwise be used to produce electricity from thermoelectric power plants- especially helpful to drought-stricken California.

## KEY FACTS

System Size  
**1 MW**

Estimated Lifetime Carbon Offset  
**15,000+ metric tons**

Equivalent to powering  
**3,000+ homes for one year**

Equivalent to removing  
**3,200 cars for one year**

Estimated Gallons of  
Water Use Avoided  
**684 million**

*Environmental calculations are based on data from the [United States Environmental Protection Agency](#) and the [National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#), with a system lifetime estimate of 20 years.*