

Multifamily Affordable Solar Housing Solar Energy Success Story



Desert Sunshine Powers Solar Savings for Senior Apartment Facility

In Southern California's Coachella Valley, residents at the Indian Wells Villas' 90-unit senior apartment complex see an average of 80 percent to 100 percent reduction in their electricity bills thanks to a 222-kilowatt (kW) solar generating system installed in early 2011.

The \$3.2-million project was offset by \$1.8 million in rebates from Southern California Edison (SCE) through the statewide Multifamily Affordable Solar Housing (MASH) program, which provides rebates for the installation of solar generating systems on qualifying affordable housing facilities.

At the Indian Wells Villas, the solar generating system provides about 75 percent of its electricity to tenants, with the other 25 percent to common areas. Overall, it offsets more than half of the complex' electricity usage.

"We Need the MASH Program"

"This fits perfectly in the city's overall green energy plan," said Indian Wells Mayor Douglas Hanson of the solar project at the apartment complex, which the city owns. "We need the MASH program to support the installation of solar generating systems that will allow decreased use of fossil fuels, improve the environment, reduce power demand and create a better quality of life for everyone."



Myrt Hamel

He added that the city has received a "tremendous" response to the project from residents at the Indian Wells Villas. "Every dollar they can save in energy costs allows them to sustain themselves better," he noted. "The number of people who live here who have come to thank the city is phenomenal."

Among those appreciative residents is Jim Nichols, who's seen his electricity bills drop to nearly zero from \$150 to \$250 per month — and sometimes even higher in the extreme desert summer heat. "I didn't realize how effective it was, but I sure see it on my monthly



Location: Indian Wells, CA

Industry: Multifamily Housing

System size: 222 kW

Results: Reduces residents' electricity bills by an average of 80 percent to 100 percent, and offsets the overall complex' electricity usage by about 52 percent, helping to reduce costs and decrease its carbon footprint

statement," he said, adding, "Now I'm able to contribute to my grandchildren more and assist with some of their expenses."

Fellow resident Bob Mitchell, whose bills dropped from as much as \$80 per month to less than \$1 per month after the installation of the solar generating system, said there isn't one resident he knows who doesn't appreciate the solar power. Plus, "it's made me more aware of energy and its use and function in our lives."

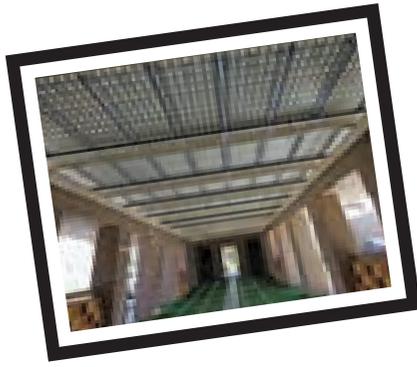
"Going Green Is Really a Great Idea"

For Myrt Hamel, it provides some peace of mind. "I can relax now not worrying about high energy bills," she said, noting that her previous bills of about \$175 a month now cost her about \$12. "I can leave the temperature at a comfortable setting and not worry. Going green is really a great idea. I would tell anyone it's done so well and it's attractive, and it's going to save a ton of money."

At the Indian Wells Villas complex, the City of Indian Wells did more than "go solar," it also implemented a number of energy efficiency projects, including more efficient roofing and air conditioning systems, lighting upgrades, smart irrigation controllers, a variable speed

pump in the common area pool, a solar pool heater and in-home energy use education for tenants. In addition, the solar project includes a performance monitoring system of the facility's solar power production.

For a region known for more than 350 days of sunshine annually, it's an ideal spot for solar. As Mayor Hanson noted, "Without the MASH program and [rebates] from SCE, we would not have this solar system. Look at the benefits it brings."



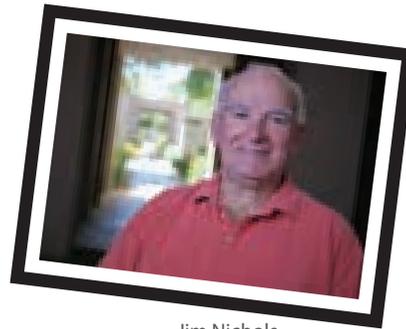
"We need the MASH program to support the installation of solar generating systems that will allow decreased use of fossil fuels, improve the environment, reduce power demand and create a better quality of life for everyone."

Indian Wells Mayor Douglas Hanson, on the rebate provided through the Multifamily Affordable Solar Housing (MASH) program

The MASH Program Helps Drive Cost Savings with Solar Power

Go Solar California! Energy customers like you are part of California's campaign to create 3,000 megawatts of renewable solar-produced electricity — the equivalent to taking six natural gas-fired power plants offline — and moving the state toward a cleaner energy future.

The MASH program is part of the California Solar Initiative program and the **Go Solar California!** campaign, and provides rebates for the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on multifamily affordable housing complexes to offset electricity loads and provide economic benefits for housing property owners, managers and building tenants.



Jim Nichols

To qualify for a MASH program rebate, buildings must be located in SCE's service territory, have an occupancy permit and meet the definition of low-income residential housing as defined in California Public Utilities Code section 2852. The program provides fixed, up-front, capacity-based incentives using Expected Performance-Based Buydown methodology, and can offset a significant portion of the up-front project cost.

With so much solar coming online, system costs are competitive and the systems themselves have become a reliable investment. By choosing to "go solar," multifamily affordable housing property owners and managers offset common area and/or tenant load while demonstrating a genuine commitment to "greening" both their facility and their bottom line.



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Start Saving Now

California Solar Initiative
www.sce.com/gosolar
www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov

General Questions
(800) 799-4177

Program Administration
(866) 584-7436

Earn Even More Savings with Other SCE Programs

- **SCE's Multifamily Energy Efficiency Rebate program** provides rebates to property owners or managers of complexes with two or more units that purchase eligible products. Call **(800) 736-4777** for a complete list of eligible products and visit www.sce.com/multifamily to view a complete list of authorized contractors.
- To find out how to make your facility more energy efficient, take **free SCE classes** in lighting, HVAC, energy management and more at an Edison Energy Education Center. Call **(800) 336-2822 (Irwindale)** or **(800) 772-4822 (Tulare)**, or visit www.sce.com/energycenters for details.

For Residents

- The **California Alternate Rate for Energy (CARE) program** offers a discount of 20 percent or more on your monthly electric bill if you qualify based on income. If the CARE program is not right for your family, you may qualify for the **Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) program**. This plan offers a discounted rate on your monthly energy bill for families of three or more persons who fall within specific income guidelines and exceed their baseline usage by 30 percent or more. For income requirements and information about how to enroll, call **(800) 447-6620** or visit www.sce.com/care.

SCE offers a range of solutions, such as cash incentives, energy surveys and payment options to help you better manage your electricity costs.

For More Information

www.sce.com
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