



ACCVA Solar Project

Atlantic City Convention & Visitors Authority

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name

- **ACCVA Solar Project**

Company

- **Atlantic City Convention & Visitors Authority (ACCVA) and Pepco Energy Services**

Location

- **Atlantic City, NJ**

Company Contact

- **Elaine Shapiro Zamansky, Manager, Media Relations, ACCVA**

Technology

- **Roof-mounted solar photovoltaic system**
- **13,486 panels**
- **Four 500 kW inverters**

Project Size

- **2.37 MW**

Project Cost

- **\$17 million**

PROJECT SAVINGS

Estimated Savings

- **\$4.4 million over the life of the Power Purchase Agreement (20 years)**

Estimated Annual Emission Reductions

- **2,349 tons of carbon dioxide**

Environmental Equivalency

- **Removing 390 passenger vehicles from the road for a year**
- **Reducing oil consumption by 4,956 barrels per year**
- **Planting 484 acres of trees**

Project information, savings, and environmental benefits were provided by ACCVA. Total savings projections are based on current energy costs as of July 2009.



“With each step we take, the ACCVA continues to embrace green initiatives and stand at the forefront of the environmental movement. Following the State’s lead in taking a proactive look at environmental issues, our outstanding team has worked in conjunction with Pepco Energy Services in order to develop this project which allows us to use our natural resources to run the convention center more efficiently.”

*Jeffrey Vasser,
President, ACCVA*

Background

Opened in 1997, the Atlantic City Convention Center is one of the east coast’s largest meeting locations with 500,000 contiguous square feet of meeting space on nearly 31 acres. Five exhibit halls range in size from 29,400 square feet to 199,500 square feet, and 45 meeting rooms surround the expansive atrium lobby to total 109,100 square feet.

Committed to preserving its unique seaside environment while providing a safe, healthy atmosphere for guests, the ACCVA is a founding member of the Convene Green Alliance, a grass roots, industry initiative spearheaded by several clean energy associations that seek to effect positive environmental practices through national, regional, and local outreach and education.

Challenge

“Going Green” has consistently been one of the center’s main operating objectives and the ACCVA remains committed to exploring new opportunities to better conserve and reuse valuable resources. To meet their environmental goals and reduce rising energy costs, the ACCVA looked to solar photovoltaic energy.

Solution

Construction of the 2.37 MW system began in June 2008 and was completed in December of the same year. The system covers two-thirds of the main roof of the convention center or about 290,000 square feet and includes 13,486 panels and four 500 kW inverters.



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The ACCVA installed a 2.37 MW solar system in 2008.

Solution (continued)

To achieve a feasible financial return on investment, ACCVA entered into a 20 year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Pepco Energy Services, an electricity and natural gas supply and energy efficiency services provider. Under the 20 year contract, Pepco Energy Services would build, own, operate and maintain the 2.37 MW solar photovoltaic system for ACCVA. This meant no out-of-pocket project costs for ACCVA. ACCVA would also be able to buy power produced by the system at a much lower rate than they did from the previous electricity service provider. This means much lower electricity bills.

The \$17 million project received a \$245,000 rebate from *New Jersey's Clean Energy Program™* and in addition, will generate Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs) for the first 15 years of energy production. The SRECs generated can then be traded on the SREC tracking system to electricity suppliers who will purchase them in lieu of paying a Solar Alternative Compliance Payment fine.

Benefits

In the first month of production, the system generated about 15% of the facility's electrical usage. The system is expected to supply approximately 26% of the center's electrical usage annually, thereby significantly reducing the ACCVA's utility bills. The total savings realized by the ACCVA as a result of the solar project will be nearly \$4.4 million in electricity costs over the 20-year PPA.

In addition, the solar project avoids the release of 2,349 tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere per year. This is equivalent to removing 390 passenger vehicles from the road, reducing oil consumption by 4,956 barrels, or planting 484 acres of trees.

Due to the immediate success of the solar project, the ACCVA is researching the feasibility of a terrestrial wind energy project. Initial reports project a single wind turbine would produce approximately 16 percent of the ACCVA's annual electrical consumption. Five existing wind turbines at the Atlantic County Utility Authority provide a strong model for this initiative.

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