



2007 New Jersey Clean Energy Leader

Prout Funeral Home

Clean Energy Small Business Leader

PROJECT INFORMATION

Organization

- Prout Funeral Home

Location

- Verona, NJ

Project Contact

- Robert Prout, Director

Technologies

- 114 Solar PV Panels (BP 170 watt and Sharp 70 Watt) and 6 Fronius Inverters

Project Cost

- \$175,000

NJCEP Incentive/Rebate

- \$84,600

Project Size

- 17.4 kW Solar PV System

PROJECT SAVINGS

Annual Emissions Savings

- 22,682 lbs. of CO₂
- 120 lbs. of SO₂
- 58 lbs. of NO_x

Annual Energy Benefits

- 20,000-24,000 kWh

Project information, savings, and environmental benefits were provided by the project manager.



“If people see that a business or house can successfully run on solar, it will give renewable energy a mainstream feel.”

*Robert Prout
Director
Prout Funeral Home*

Background

Since 1924, Prout Funeral Home, Verona, NJ, has been handling the needs of its neighboring community with compassionate assistance and efficient service. The family-owned business prides itself on growing with the families it serves and having deep roots in the community. Though it embraces traditional values, Prout Funeral Home is eager to use the technology of the future to help the environment and keep costs down for its client families.

Challenge

Prout Funeral Home has long been involved with Verona's municipal Shade Tree Commission, is represented on its Beautification Commission, and is very interested in conservation and helping to preserve the environment. As an established part of the Verona business community, Prout Funeral Home wanted to do its part to join in Governor Jon S. Corzine's plans for using energy more wisely in New Jersey while still catering to the needs of its customers.

Solution

Prout decided to invest in a solar electric system for the Home. The system consists of 114 solar photovoltaic panels on the roof and 6 inverters, for a 17.4 kilowatt system. The Home was able to finance the new solar system in part with \$84,600 provided through New Jersey's Clean Energy Program's CORE Rebate Program. Producing much of its own electricity needs has enabled Prout Funeral Home to cut its overhead costs.

Prout Funeral Home's system is the first solar installation in Verona. Hoping to spread the word to other businesses, citizens, and the youth of the community, part of Prout's project was also the installation of an educational display in a public area of the





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The active inverters are on display in an educational setting to give visitors an up-close view of solar energy being converted to electricity.

Home. Many who visit Prout Funeral Home are intrigued by the solar electric system and often ask questions about how it operates. Also developed was a 45-minute tour, including a 5-minute video from the National Renewable Energy Lab. School children from the neighborhood, including science classes from Our Lady of the Lake School in Verona, have taken the tour and have been impressed with how you can harness the power of the sun to light up and heat your business or home.

Benefits

The solar electric system is currently providing approximately 55-60 percent of the electricity the Prout Funeral Home requires. It is generating between 20,000-24,000 kilowatt hours per year. Estimated annual greenhouse gas emission reductions include 120 lbs. of sulfur oxide, 58 lbs. of nitrogen oxide, and over 22,682 lbs. of carbon dioxide, the equivalent of planting 54 trees every year.

Beyond the environmental benefits are the educational opportunities afforded by the display room at Prout Funeral Home and the tours being given. Home Director Robert Prout hopes to spur the youth in the area, and beyond, to start thinking about how they can help the environment now – for example by doing simple things like changing to more efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs – and in the future. “If we expose the younger generation to this, perhaps by the time they buy a house, they’ll look for solar energy,” he says.

The installation of the solar electric system and the steps taken to help educate others about the benefits of clean, renewable energy were instrumental in having Prout Funeral Home recognized as the winner of the 2007 New Jersey Clean Energy Small Business Leader, a new category for the Clean Energy Leadership Awards.

Media Contact

Doyal Siddell
Public Information Officer
New Jersey Board of Public
Utilities
973-468-8515

To learn more about New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, and to find out why **clean energy is smart business**, go to NJCleanEnergy.com.

