

Frequently Asked Questions

Recurrent Energy's solar energy system at San Domenico School's campus

System Host

San Domenico School

System Owner/Operator

RECURRENT ENERGY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Q: How big is the project?

A: The project is a 412 kW system consisting of 2,358 photovoltaic (PV) panels spread across several roof- and ground-mounted arrays, covering in total almost one full football field. The installations are expected to produce 630,000 kWh in year 1.

Q: Can you put this project into perspective for me?

A: San Domenico School's solar project is the largest school system in Marin County and likely the largest private school system in California. The project is unique due to its complexity because it utilizes different site configurations in order to leverage maximum electricity returns. It is a showcase site from an educational standpoint given that visitors can easily view several different system designs from a single vantage point.

Q: Who does the generated electricity serve?

A: San Domenico School will use 100% of the electricity generated. This will amount to



over 85% of the energy required for the school's campus.

Q: Who is Recurrent Energy and how are they involved?

A: San Francisco-based Recurrent Energy is a distributed power company and a leading provider of onsite solar energy. The company is financing, owning, and operating the solar power system at SDS, selling the clean electricity to the school under a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Q: Why are the solar power systems so spread out on campus?

A: In order to produce enough power to handle a large amount of the school's electricity needs, it required finding an area that could fit the 2,000+ panels. The two rooftops and the hillside provided the perfect space and they are now interconnected on the school's electricity grid.

Q: Why was solar photovoltaic (PV) chosen for this project versus other alternatives?

A: Solar photovoltaic (PV) provided the best cost per kWh produced and is a proven, stable technology.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Q: What happens if the sun doesn't shine? Do the panels produce energy?

A: Contrary to popular belief, a blustery winter day

can be great for electricity generation. Very hot panels tend to be inefficient, so a cool, breezy day is actually ideal — so long as the sky is clear and the sun is bright. Solar panels do not produce energy at night.

Q: How do you clean the panels?

A: The panels are easily cleaned with rainfall during the winter months. During the dry, dusty summer months the panels are professionally cleaned with mild soap and water.

System Facts:

412 kW

Total system capacity

85%

Percent of power needs

630,000 kWh

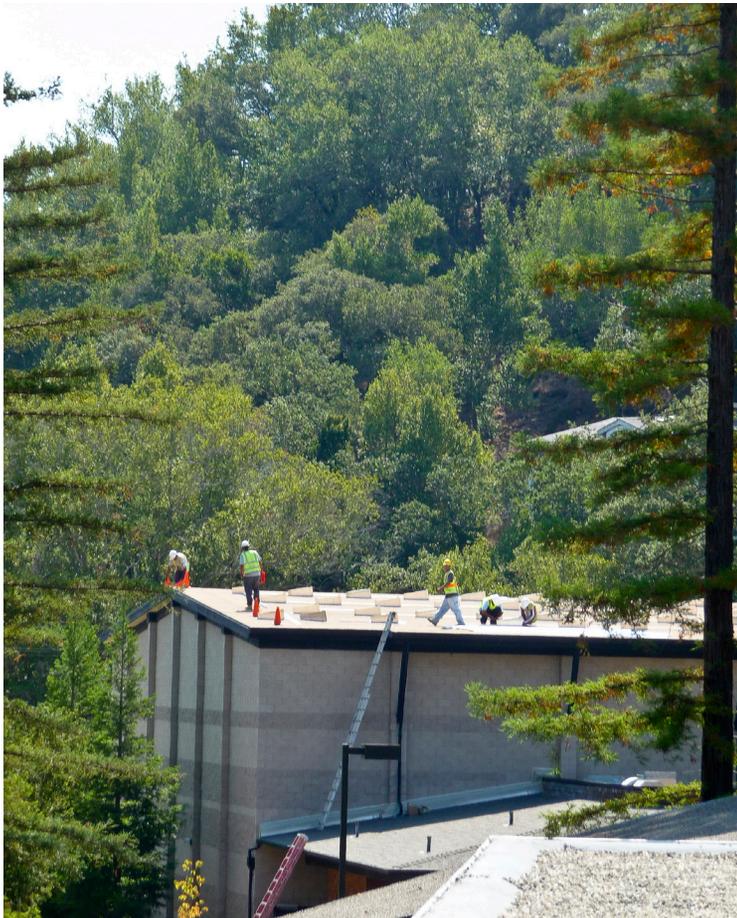
Expected year-1
electricity production

448

Metric tons CO² avoided*

70

Cars off of road*



Q: Will the array create glare for planes and birds?

A: Solar panels absorb light which is then converted to electricity. In addition, solar panels have an anti-reflective coating to minimize the light reflecting off of the panels. Thus there is little glare from the panels.

Q: Where are these panels made?

A: The panels were manufactured by Yingli in Hebei, China. They are mounted on systems provided by locally-based companies: Sunlink and IronRidge.

Q: How long will the panels last?

A: PV panels in general are designed to last up to 30 years, and possibly longer.

Q: How can we get more solar energy systems in our region?

A: When more people understand the value of solar for the environment, and that they can help solve rising energy demand with clean power, we believe more companies will invest in solar.

Q: Why are solar energy systems important to the environment and in stopping climate change?

A: Using fossil fuels for electricity generation is the nation's single largest industrial source of air pollution. By incorporating solar energy, organizations reduce their need for utility electricity and avoid the related emissions of pollutants and carbon dioxide, the principal greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. Solar is also the only 100% clean, completely silent energy generation technology.

Q: You said that this system is expected to produce 630,000 kWh in year 1 — how does that translate?

A: The annual impact of Recurrent Energy's system translates to taking 70 automobiles off the road or preventing 3 acres of deforestation. All renewable energy credits associated with this project will be sold to a third party; all associated environmental attributes will be credited to that third party.

Q: How does the Solar Monitor work and where can I access it?

A: Recurrent Energy's Solar Monitor will be available on www.sandomenico.org soon, once the solar energy system is fully operational. The Solar Monitor is a great resource to bookmark in order to check-in on the project's operation and performance. It will include current and historic performance data (with monthly and annual read-outs); up-to-date environmental savings statistics; live weather data from San Anselmo, CA; and general project information and site photos.



*Based on EPA national metrics