



News Release

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Solar Projects in Riverside Top 6 Megawatt Mark

Riverside, Calif. – As Inland Southern California gets a taste of warm summer-like temperatures this May, solar energy projects in Riverside surpassed the 6 megawatt (MW) mark, as residential and commercial customers continue to build projects on their homes and businesses that take advantage of the region’s sunny weather to create clean, renewable energy.

Fostered by new, lower priced and more efficient technology, tax incentives, and rebates from the state and Riverside’s community-owned energy utility, the city has seen about a 1 MW increase in solar energy projects each year since 2009 (one megawatt is enough energy to power about 650 homes).

“As our city moves forward, it is important that we embrace practices and projects that keep future generations in mind and creates a clean and green, sustainable city to live, work, and play in,” said Riverside’s Mayor William “Rusty” Bailey. “By continuing to boost our city’s solar profile and reach new generation milestones, we cultivate that environment while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and electrical demands.”

The city’s first solar project was a 151.2 kilowatt (kW) carport structure installed by Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) at its operations center in 2001. Since then, RPU helped to fund 14 solar projects at city parks and pool facilities, senior centers, low-income housing facilities, train stations, and atop city hall that produce more than 750 kW.

In 2003, RPU created a rebate and incentive program for residential energy customers who were interested in installing photovoltaic generation systems. A commercial solar rebate and incentive program followed in 2008. To date, there are now more than 630 projects producing renewable solar energy that helps offset the city’s energy demands, while helping RPU meet and surpass state mandated renewable energy portfolio goals.

“Riverside’s solar future will only continue to expand from here,” said the city’s Sustainability Officer Mike Bacich. The utility is currently investigating the installation of up to 30 megawatts of additional solar energy generation in the form of solar farms on city-owned property, like the closed and capped Tequesquite landfill, Bacich said.

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Established in 1895, Riverside Public Utilities is a consumer-owned water and electric utility governed by a board of nine community volunteers that provides high quality, reliable services to over 106,000 metered electric customers and up to 64,000 metered water customers throughout the City of Riverside. The Utility is committed to increased use of renewable energy resources and sustainable living practices that help reduce environmental impacts within the City of Riverside and the state of California.

www.RiversidePublicUtilities.com

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