

Del Mar Fairgrounds



The Del Mar Fairgrounds is one of San Diego County's largest multipurpose entertainment venues featuring indoor exhibit halls, fairgrounds area, an off-track betting facility, infield, stables and its world-famous horse-racing track. The Fairgrounds hosts the annual San Diego County Fair and is operated by the 22nd District Agricultural Association, a local agency of the State of California.

SUMMARY

Customer:
Del Mar Fairgrounds

Project:
1 MW Photovoltaic System

Incentive:
\$2.2 million

Total Cost:
\$4.8 million

▼ Issues

Uncertainty in the California energy market has caused wide fluctuations in costs and constantly threatens availability. The Fairgrounds is one of the largest consumers of electricity in the County of San Diego with an annual bill in excess of \$1.2 million. The State of California has asked some of its larger agencies to help reduce peak grid loads and to do it in environmentally friendly ways.



▼ Solution

The Fairgrounds is located in a relatively sunny, cool climate and has an extensive system of stables and barns with relatively flat roofs that make ideal solar panel platforms. Using a \$2.2 million grant from SDREO's Self-Generation Incentive Program, the Fairgrounds was able to install a \$4.8 million photovoltaic system with nearly 10,000 solar panels spread over 11 barns. It is the largest single solar electricity generating system in San Diego County.

▼ Results

The 970 kilowatt system now supplies over 20% of the Fairgrounds total electricity needs (enough to power 300 homes) and will save the Fairgrounds more than \$250,000 annually. The long term benefits from grid reduction, reduced fossil fuel use and reduced emissions are considerable.



The San Diego Regional Energy Office currently has over \$30 million in incentives available for qualified self-generation projects including wind, solar, fuel cell, microturbine and conventional cogeneration and self-generation technologies. Contact us for more information.

"This is a wonderful program. The rebate offered by SDREO was a major factor in our decision to go ahead with this project, which will cover an estimated 20% of our electrical needs."

Tim Fennel
Del Mar Fairgrounds
General Manager



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Self-Generation Incentive Program

Just take a look at your facility's electric bills. If you use more than 3,750 kWh per month, you're a candidate for self-generation.

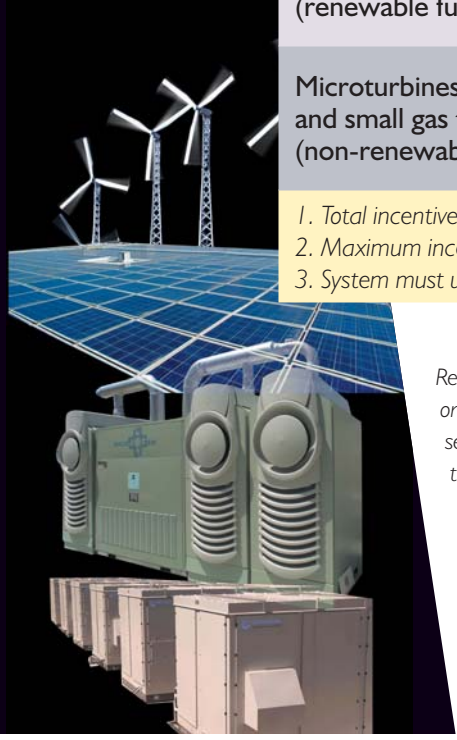
Generating your own power can lower costs, improve price stability and ensure reliable supplies. Plus if you use clean, renewable sources, you'll help reduce fossil fuel dependence and improve air and water quality.

With incentives covering up to 50% of total installation, self-generation makes good business sense and you'll be helping the San Diego region reduce its reliance on imported energy.

Incentives available for installation of qualifying equipment				
Eligible Technology	Incentive (\$/watt) ¹	Max. % of Project Cost ¹	Minimum System Size	Maximum System Size ²
Photovoltaics Fuel cells (renewable fuel) Wind turbines	\$4.50	50%	30 kW	1.5 MW
LEVEL 1				
Fuel cells (non-renewable fuel) ³	\$2.50	40%	None	1.5 MW
LEVEL 2				
Microturbines, IC engines and small gas turbines (renewable fuel)	\$1.50	40%	None	1.5 MW
LEVEL 3-R				
Microturbines, IC engines and small gas turbines (non-renewable fuel) ³	\$1.00	30%	None	1.5 MW
LEVEL 3-N				

1. Total incentive will be the lesser of these two amounts.
2. Maximum incentive payout capped at 1 MW.
3. System must utilize waste heat recovery meeting Public Utilities Code 218.5.

Retail electric or gas customers of San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison or Southern California Gas are eligible for the Self-Generation Incentive Program. The San Diego Regional Energy Office services applications within the SDG&E service territory. While residential customers are not excluded from this program, the minimum system sizes effectively limit most applications to commercial users.



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