

Corporate Computer Centers, Inc.



Corporate Computer Centers, established in 1988, is a San Diego based small business that designs and manufactures desktop computers, servers, and embedded systems for a wide variety of commercial, military and government customers. Corporate Computer Centers is also a factory authorized reseller and service center for many leading manufacturers.

SUMMARY

Customer:

Corporate Computer Centers, Inc.

Project:

40 kW Photovoltaic System

Incentive:

\$178,000

Total Cost:

\$356,000

▼ Issues

After the 2001 energy crisis, Corporate Computer Centers became concerned about the long term future of electricity prices and supplies so management began looking at options that could provide some independence from the local utility, greater price stability and improved reliability during peak operating hours.



▼ Solution

A screening analysis suggested that the best option would be installing a solar electric generation (photovoltaic) system on the building's roof. Based on the facility's energy consumption and available space, Todd Solar Engineering installed a 40kW system in August of 2002.

▼ Results

The system produces 100% of Corporate Computer Centers electrical needs during normal

operating hours. At times, it generates more power than they can use and feeds electricity back to the grid – so their electric meter actually runs backwards.

A 50% rebate check of over \$178,000 was given to Corporate Computer Centers from the SDREO Self-Generation Incentive Program. When combined with financing the company obtained, the monthly system cost is roughly equal to what the company used to pay in utility bills. For the same money, Corporate Computer Centers owns an asset that has increased their property's value and provides long-term energy price stability.

"Our solar generating plant has been a tremendous asset since it came on-line late last year. Our electric bills have been reduced almost to nothing, the value of our property has increased and we've been able to successfully market the system to prospective tenants as a significant benefit."

Michael Schriber
Vice President
Corporate Computer Centers
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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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