



NEWS FLASH

[CPS Energy collaborates on innovative, sustainable rooftop solar program](#)



Mission Solar Energy creates 'made-in-San Antonio' panels

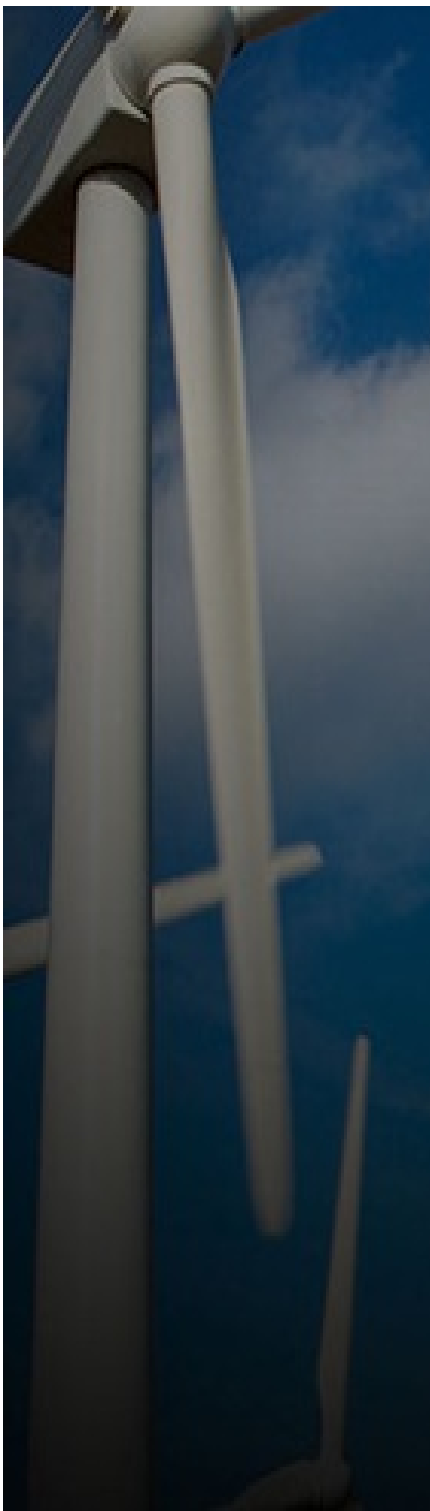
By **Scott Wudel** on September 18, 2014



Print



Email Text Only Version



CPS Energy already has more than **130 megawatts of solar power online**, bringing clean, renewable energy to customers.

Another 300 MW of sun power is on the way, and that means a lot of solar panels. The good news is, all of those panels will be made right here in San Antonio.

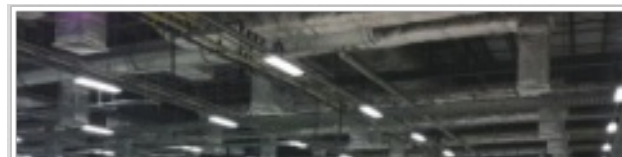
Alamo 1, the first solar farm built as part of our 400-MW agreement with **OCI Solar Power**, relies on 167,000 panels to generate 45 MW of clean energy. Really... *167,000 panels*. Alamo 2, a 4.5 MW farm located on the northeast side, uses 18,000. The latest, a 39 MW farm located in Brackettville, 124 miles west of San Antonio, relies on 150,000 panels.

Four more farms will be built in San Antonio and around Texas over the next three years to complete the agreement. That's a lot of silicon.

The panels for the first three OCI Solar Power farms were produced by a foreign manufacturer before Mission Solar Energy set up shop here in San Antonio. The local headquarters and production facility is one of seven new energy companies that have relocated here as part of **CPS Energy's New Energy Economy initiative**.

Today, Mission Solar is the only solar panel manufacturing facility in Texas and the only n-type solar manufacturing facility in the country.

"There are two types of silicon used in solar cell manufacturing: p-type and n-type," says Alex Kim, president and CEO of Mission Solar. "We



use n-type because it has a higher efficiency and lasts longer.”

The new 240,000 square foot facility at Brooks City Base (which will officially celebrate its opening on Monday) will manufacture panels exclusively for the remaining OCI Solar farms for the next three years. After that, Mission Solar will target residential and commercial markets.

The Texas-sized factory has a 90,000 square foot “clean” cell manufacturing area. Employees wear lab coats and gloves, and operate multiple inspection stations, to make sure finished solar cells are high quality and offer maximum electrical generation.

Each finished six-by-six inch cell becomes part of a 72-cell panel. The panels are capable of generating up to 325 watts of power each.

“We currently run 50 panels an hour and will double that once when we’re in full production – all for OCI Solar through 2017,” says Kim.



Mission Solar’s cell manufacturing area is 90,000 sq. ft. and “clean.”



Mission Solar employees have a unique set of skills for the job.

Mission Solar will soon produce modules 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The company will move from one to two lines next year, to produce up to 200 megawatts of manufactured solar power annually. A move to residential production in three years means panels made here may wind up on the homes of you and your neighbors someday.

Yep, homegrown solar power – just like buying a Toyota Tundra made right here in San Antonio.

Mission Solar will need as many as 400 employees for full operation. Already, more the 240, some trained through workforce training programs at the Alamo Colleges, are on board.

Almost one out of every five employees are veterans – now working on land once dedicated to the missions of a former Air Force base.

RELATED STORIES:

[OCI Solar Power uses sheep as “lambscapers” at solar farm](#)

[For sale: residential solar inverters made in San Antonio by KACO](#)

[CPS Energy looking to grow rooftop and community solar](#)

[San Antonio, now 6th in nation, lauded for solar growth](#)

solar



Print



Email Text Only Version

This Post Has 0 Comments

Leave a Reply

Post Comment

Notify me of follow-up comments by email.

Notify me of new posts by email.



Search Articles... 



CPS Energy In The News

Can a high-tech thermostat save money and energy?

March 5, 2014 | *Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder*

Demand Response Could Factor in Grid Debate

March 1, 2014 | *The Texas Tribune*

CPS Energy calls on former AT&T honcho to explain the need for change

February 28, 2014 | *Alamo City Beat - San Antonio Business Journal*

CPS Energy Grant Helps Jefferson Students Study Renewable Energy

February 25, 2014 | *Rocket News*

CPS Energy sells its communications towers

January 16, 2014 | *San Antonio Express-News*

FROM TWITTER



Thanks @saisd. 20m ago
Through #demandresponse, you help us reduce energy demand when we need it most! Saving pays!
<http://t.co/OvyYGKaKdB>

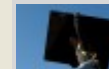


RT @monikam: Bring it, 3h ago
#SanAntonio RT
@Rivardreport: Coming

RECENT POSTS



GrillsGiving: enjoy some barbecue and help your neighbors in need



CPS Energy collaborates on innovative, sustainable rooftop solar program



Using a Smart Thermostat can

@ivadrop: coming.
accessible, affordable
#CommunitySolar
@SolarSanAntonio
@cpsenergy http://t.co...



be a smart move

CPS Energy renews plans for
clean coal plant



Thanks Frost Bank, for *5h ago*
making HVAC improvements
that save energy and money!
http://t.co/j2IOZvJSB7

RECENT COMMENTS



w inops posted on **Albert
Cantu's Money Saving Minute:
Air conditioning tips:**
*Beneficial tips. Air
Conditioning System's filter
plays a important role...*



pete tandy posted on **Albert
Cantu's Money Saving Minute:
Air conditioning tips:**
*Your wrong, turning off the a/c
all day when your...*



Mission Solar Energy now
manufacturing 'made-in-San
Antonio' solar panels | North
SA Chamber of Commerce
posted on **For sale: residential
solar inverters made in San
Antonio by KACO:[...]** *Stories:
OCI Solar Power uses sheep
as "lambscapers" at...*



Mission Solar Energy now
manufacturing 'made-in-San
Antonio' solar panels | North
SA Chamber of Commerce
posted on **Not a baaaa-d idea:
OCI Solar Power uses sheep
as "lambscapers" at solar
farm:[...]** *Stories: OCI Solar
Power uses sheep as
"lambscapers" at...*

Copyright © 2013, CPS Energy. All rights reserved.



CPS Energy calls on former AT&T honcho to explain the need for change

February 28, 2014 | *Alamo City Beat - San Antonio Business Journal*

...

CPS Energy Grant Helps Jefferson Students Study Renewable Energy

February 25, 2014 | *Rocket News*

...

CPS Energy sells its communications towers

January 16, 2014 | *San Antonio Express-News*

...

San Antonio: Ground Zero for Renewable Energy in an 'All-of-the-Above' Energy Market

January 16, 2014 | *Southeast Green*

...

San Antonio Integrates 21st Century Low Carbon Technology in 20th Century Energy Systems

January 16, 2014 | *Southeast Green*

...

OCI Solar starts work on third phase of project for CPS Energy

January 15, 2014 | *Alamo City Beat - San Antonio Business Journal*

...