



Porterville solar array

Wastewater Facilities Get the Sol Treatment

Solar projects at wastewater treatment facilities are becoming increasingly popular as solar costs continue to drop making open land at facilities ripe for the sweet smell of lower cost, clean energy.

The economic and environmental value that onsite solar energy can bring to a wastewater treatment facility is further supported by interesting parallels in shared purpose between solar and wastewater treatment. They both provide an essential service to our communities, doing so by converting a natural resource into a valuable service. We experienced this first-hand during our successful development, financing, and construction of onsite solar at wastewater treatment facilities in Porterville, CA and Hurlock, MD. Both now have operational solar on their locations and are enjoying savings and long-term price certainty for their electricity.

Building Investor Confidence in Hurlock, MD

In 2014, Sol Systems partnered with a local firm in Maryland to develop and build a 1.3MW solar array on the site of the Hurlock's municipal wastewater plant. The town of Hurlock signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) to buy energy from the project over a 20-year term at a fixed price per kWh. The PPA ensured that the town could properly budget over the next 20 years and protect themselves against future electricity price volatility.



Hurlock Solar Array

Sol Systems financed the Hurlock solar project with one of our primary investor partners. The project presented a unique financing challenge because Hurlock, like many other towns of its sizes, had no publicly-available credit rating, which most investors rely on to obtain competitive financing. Sol Systems was able to secure financing at competitive rates due to a thorough, internal analysis of Hurlock's credit and our larger successful solar portfolio. Sol Systems completed the project and now continues to provide asset management services for the system on an ongoing basis.

Navigating Unique Circumstances in Porterville, CA

Two years later, in 2016, Sol Systems once again completed a solar project at a wastewater treatment facility - this time a 1.1MW project for the City of Porterville in central California. The project, which was awarded through an RFP, also delivered electricity to the city under a PPA negotiated by Sol.



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While reviewing the site, Sol Systems became aware that the site for the solar system proposed by the city was also an overflow zone where water directed in cases of flooding. To address construction and financing concerns, Sol worked with the city to forecast when and at what levels the site might be flooded during the 25-year operating period. Based on these projections, Sol designed and built the solar panels at a higher height than typical and contracted for additional maintenance services to accommodate the special requirements for this site. The solar system is now producing electricity as anticipated without issue.

For more information contact William Graves at William.Graves@SolSystems.com or 202-588-6237

Whether financing entities without a credit rating or developing solar for unique site conditions, Sol Systems is ready for both known and unforeseen challenges when working with municipalities.

