

Project profile
City of Tulare
Tulare, California



Solar carport a showcase for city commitment to sustainability

Located in the heart of some of the most productive farmland in the world, city of Tulare leaders have been good stewards of taxpayer money, while keeping an eye on the natural resources that provide the lifeblood for this agricultural community. A pilot project with Johnson Controls involving photovoltaic panels on a city carport is generating clean, renewable energy for the municipal wastewater treatment plant.

Resources for the future

Attracting economic growth while assuring resources to meet future needs is a challenge for Tulare. Johnson Controls has partnered with the city to develop a \$10 million comprehensive program of significant upgrades to the city's domestic water infrastructure, along with expanded energy services and capital improvements – all financed through operational and energy savings.

Generating renewable solar energy

But it's not enough to just save energy. The city is generating its own energy – and in an environmentally friendly way. Johnson Controls developed a 30-kilowatt photovoltaic system on the 20-space carport located at

the municipal waste water treatment plant. It's a perfect way to showcase the city's commitment to the future.

Johnson Controls coordinated all electrical equipment needed to connect the photovoltaic system to the utility grid, including inverters, power meters and switchgear. In addition, Johnson Controls shepherded the city through the detailed paperwork necessary for grid connection. Partial funding came from utility rebates as part of its renewable energy portfolio.

"PV parking" also an employee perk

The photovoltaic installation isn't just for show. Johnson Controls has developed metrics to demonstrate cost effectiveness and performance measures. Not surprisingly, with summer temperature often 100+ degrees, these 20 covered parking spaces are considered a nice benefit for employees. And other city facilities may soon be glowing with similar success. City officials found that police cars parked under shade units require less frequent painting, so they are considering a second photovoltaic project at the main police station.