

Petaluma Joint Union High School District



Industry: Education

Owner: Petaluma Joint High School District

Location: Petaluma, CA

Project Size: 1.06 MW

Project Advisor: TerraVerde Renewable Partners, LLC

Solar Installer: Cupertino Electric, Inc.

“TerraVerde paid special attention to the District’s unique needs and requirements throughout the development and implementation process. Most importantly, they have worked as a true partner, providing information in a fully transparent manner and have worked collaboratively with us to address issues and problems that inevitably arise during the development process.”

Steve Bolman, Superintendent,
Petaluma City Schools

Project Summary

Multi-Campus Solar System Helps Save Schools Money and Puts Funds Back Into Classrooms

Petaluma Joint Union High School District contacted TerraVerde in late 2009 for help in managing their increasing electricity costs. TerraVerde analyzed the District’s electricity usage and developed a plan for implementing a cost effective 1.06 MW solar project that included shaded parking structures at two locations: Petaluma High School and Casa Grande High School. The project is on target to provide savings of \$200,000 per year (net of financing and operations and maintenance costs), allowing the District to put these funds to use in the classroom. Another important outcome of the project is increased energy efficiency awareness among District students and staff (TerraVerde helped sponsor a professional development for teachers on integrating solar into the classroom curriculum). The parking structures that hold the solar panels, also serve as a source of shade for teacher and student parking, and with the financial support of TerraVerde and Cupertino Electric, will allow the District to install electric vehicle charging stations this spring. Just as important, the solar project puts the District in control of their electricity costs over the long-term, buffering it from the price spikes and volatility of energy markets. For more information, contact Rick Brown, PhD: Rick.Brown@TVRPLLC.com