University of California San Francisco, Mission Bay

THE OPPORTUNITY

Since 2003, the University of California system has been dedicated to being a national leader in environmental stewardship. When it came time to build a world-class biomedical education and research center in San Francisco's Mission Bay neighborhood, the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) emerging sustainability policy included adoption of on-site renewable power at its facilities.

THE PARTNERSHIP

UCSF partnered with ENGIE Services U.S. (ENGIE) to help fashion the new Mission Bay campus as a leading example of green building design. ENGIE designed and installed the largest solar power system to date at a UC campus. The system incorporates two distinct solar energy technologies: solar roofs on Genentech Hall and atop the carports of the parking garage and vertically mounted building-integrated photovoltaic (BIPV) modules on the garage facade.

UCSF identified an innovative way to avoid upfront project costs and ongoing system maintenance costs by having a third party own and operate the solar power system and sell power to UCSF through a long-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). Through this arrangement, UCSF enjoyed immediate savings at system start-up, allowing it to focus its resources on education and research programs.

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Program Highlights

- Installed solar power system generating 350,000 kWh of electricity annually, enough to power 55 homes
- The clean energy generated by the system prevents nearly 470,000 lbs of CO_2 emissions each year
- Self-sufficiently generates power at UCSF, reducing demand for electricity from the local utility and the state's power grid

Technical Scope

- 275 kW of sharp solar modules on the roof of Genentech Hall and atop the carports of the Third Street parking garage
- Building envelope improvements with BIPV modules mounted vertically on the garage facade.

3 DIMENSIONS OF IMPACT

UCSF Mission Bay's solar power system began operation in January 2008. ENGIE is committed to building three dimensions of impact in every customer's future:

Supporting People – The clean energy generated enhances livability of the building environment, as well as in the neighborhood.

Saving Money – CNot only does this project save the UC system money in energy costs, it also fulfills UCSF's commitment to renewable energy and green building design.

Protecting the Environment – The clean energy it generates prevents nearly 470,000 lbs of CO2 emissions each year. The electricity powers lighting systems and building elevators at the parking structure and Genentech Hall.