



## **Governor Huntsman and Mayor McArthur Help the St. George Utility Companies Cut the Ribbon at the New SunSmart Solar Farm**

*The First of its Kind Solar Farm is Now Generating Power*

(St. George, UT) January 14, 2009 – St. George's innovative solar farm, SunSmart, is now generating power. The City of St. George Energy Services Department and Dixie Escalante Electric have built the large solar photovoltaic (PV) facility allowing residents to get solar power through SunSmart, a community solar farm. Governor Huntsman and St. George's Mayor McArthur gathered with city officials, business leaders and the community to commemorate the event.

"Energy is a critical component in sustaining Utah's vibrant economic growth and preserving our unparalleled quality of life," Governor Huntsman said. "Utah is poised to lead the charge in energy efficiency, renewable and alternative energy development with new and innovative technologies. Projects like St. George's SunSmart are the perfect example of our State's great potential being put into action."

"We are very excited to offer this program to the residents of St. George. Never before have St. George residents had access to solar without installing panels on their home," stated Phillip Solomon, energy services director for the City of St. George. "We have seen increased demand from our customers to provide more options that include renewable energy. We looked at all of the renewable sources of energy and evaluated multiple studies; it was determined that, due to the weather and the landscape, solar was the best choice for our community."

St. George residents are able to purchase units of the solar farm in whole units (1 kilowatt) and half units (1/2 kilowatt). One unit will generate about 140 kWh per month, on average. Units of SunSmart are now available for purchase.

A one-time tax credit of 25 percent of the purchase price, up to a maximum of \$2,000, may be available from the State of Utah. The purchaser will also receive a monthly energy credit on their utility bill for the amount of energy produced that month by the "unit" of solar panels.

The City worked with the State Legislature to make this program possible. Currently, no other city in the state allows homeowners to receive state tax credits for renewable energy systems that are not on the homeowner's property.

"The SunSmart program makes it convenient and hassle free for residents to use renewable sources of energy," stated LaDel Laub, general manager, Dixie Escalante Electric. "We hope the St. George residents take advantage of this program and support this local source of sustainable energy."

Real time output of the solar farm can be viewed at [www.SGSunSmart.com](http://www.SGSunSmart.com). The site also has a video explaining how the program works, and contains instructions on how to sign up.

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