



St. George Utilities Go Solar With SunSmart

The SunSmart Program Allows St. George Residents to Purchase Energy From a Local Community Solar Farm

(St. George, UT) October 09, 2008 – Access to sustainable, maintenance-free solar energy is now available to St. George residents through SunSmart. City of St. George Energy Services Department and Dixie Escalante Electric have built a large solar photovoltaic (PV) facility allowing residents to get solar power through SunSmart, a community solar farm.

“Never before have St. George residents had access to solar without installing panels on their home. Now they have another way to access renewable energy,” 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 will be able to purchase units of the SunSmart program 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.”

For more information about the SunSmart program go to www.SGSunSmart.com.

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