

CITY MARKET, ONION RIVER CO-OP SOLAR PROJECT

Burlington, Vermont



BACKGROUND

"City Market, Onion River Co-op, is a 16,000 sq. ft. community-owned food cooperative located in downtown Burlington, Vermont. City Market provides a critical service to the residents of Burlington and the larger community by providing conventional, organic, and local products at a fair price to all. The Co-op is extremely dedicated to supporting the local economy and enhancing the sustainability of agriculture." – City Market, Onion River Co-op

PROJECT GOALS

In 2010 the City Market, Onion River Co-op in Burlington, Vermont applied for a grant to install a 31.28 kw Photovoltaic system on the roof of their building. The original goals and objectives of this project were to:

- Produce over 32,748 kWh of electricity annually
- Support job growth in the renewable energy sector
- Contract a Vermont-based company to complete the project in order to take advantage of the local economic multipliers
- Reduce carbon-burnt energy use in the State of Vermont
- Encourage customers and community to consider renewal forms of energy

The Clean Energy Development Fund contributed \$53,900 towards developing the Photovoltaic system, accounting for about 28.7% of the total project costs.

"We're excited that a high-profile shopping destination like City Market has made this commitment to a clean-energy future. The combination of drastically reduced prices and strong government incentives made this project a smart move for City Market." - groSolar CEO Jeff Wolfe

IMPACTS OF PROJECT

With the help of the Clean Energy Development Fund, City Market, Onion River Co-op was successful in installing the Photovoltaic system. The project has been capable of developing 32,748 kWh of electricity annually, as well as avoiding 57,166 pounds of CO₂ that would have been emitted by using non-renewable energy resources. In addition, City Market has been hosting seminars presented by GoSolar staff. These sessions teach customers about the workings of solar power, how state grants and federal tax credits help pay for the system, and guidelines for assessing whether their homes or businesses are suitable for solar power.

