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Arab Water World

عالم المياه العربي

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Raleigh water plant sprouts new rooftop solar power array



A water treatment plant in Raleigh, North Carolina, USA, is now home to one of the state's largest rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays. Carolina Solar Energy built the 250-kilowatt (kW) array at the city of Raleigh's E.M. Johnson Water Treatment Plant, and is selling its output to Progress Energy Carolinas for distribution to its customers.

This solar PV array is made possible by Progress Energy's SunSenseSM commercial solar PV program, which is designed to encourage the development of renewable energy by offering a premium price for solar power developed on commercial rooftops. In 2009, Progress Energy accepted proposals for a total of more than 2,000 kW under this program.

«We are committed to developing solar power, along with energy efficiency and state-of-the-art power plants, as part of a balanced approach to meeting our region's growing energy demand,» said *Lloyd Yates*, president and chief executive officer of Progress Energy Carolinas.

This solar PV array is the first in the Southeast to use First Solar's thin-film PV technology, which allows the panels to generate electricity for longer periods during the day. It was commissioned on December 30, 2009, and is expected to generate approximately 325,000 kilowatt-hours this year – roughly equal to the annual energy demand of 22 typical homes. The PV array will reduce annual carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 230

tons, which is equivalent to conserving 26,000 gallons of gasoline.

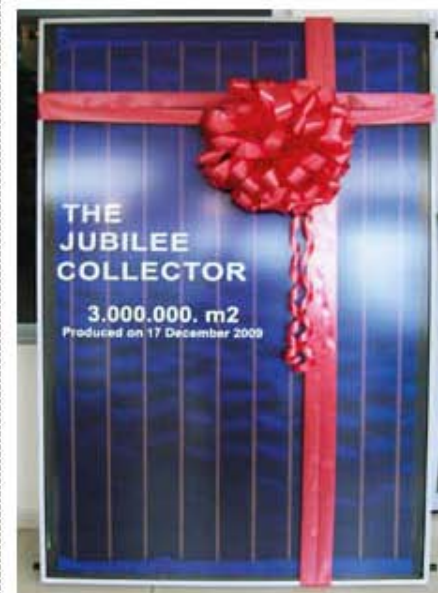
The E.M. Johnson Water Treatment Plant is located at the southwest corner of Falls of the Neuse and Raven Ridge roads in Raleigh. The array is located on the roof of the plant's «clearwell», a large concrete structure that stores clean water before it is sent to be used by city residents. Carolina Solar Energy has a 20-year lease with the city, and the city has an option to buy the solar array in the future. No city capital investment was required for the project. The city and Progress Energy Carolinas, which is headquartered in Raleigh, have already partnered on several «green» initiatives. These include installing energy-efficient LED streetlights, preparing the city for electric vehicles through the NC Get Ready project and announcing a 1.2-megawatt solar PV array to be built at the Neuse River Waste Water Treatment Plant.

This is the third solar project that Carolina Solar Energy has developed with Progress Energy. The other two solar PV arrays are a 75-kW array at the RBC Center in Raleigh and a 650-kW array in Person County. Both are in operation.

«We believe consumer demand for green power will quickly outpace supply in our state,» said Carolina Solar Energy founder *Richard Harkrader*. «One of our goals with this highly-visible project is to show that solar power isn't just for people in California and Arizona; it's feasible on a large scale here in North Carolina.» ■

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Ezinc produces its 3,000,000th square meter of solar collectors



Ezinc, the leading solar thermal equipment manufacturer in Turkey, proudly announced that it has produced 3 million m² of solar thermal collectors, as of December 2009, since its establishment in 1983. This important milestone was celebrated at the production site with all employees, when the jubilee collector appeared at the end of the production line. The jubilee collector was taken from the production line and has since been on display in the headquarters building of the company.

Ezinc has been producing a wide range of flat-type solar thermal collectors for national and export markets. In 2007, the company increased its production capacity by investing in an automated full-plate ultrasonic absorber manufacturing line.

Ezinc was established in 1983 and became the biggest manufacturer of solar thermal equipment in Turkey with large investments in this field and by developing the company's capacities year after year. Ezinc has been exporting its products to 80 countries worldwide. In 2009, the company added SRCC and FSEC certifications for Thermosiphon Solar Water Heaters to its portfolio. Ezinc has also been awarded as an Energy Star Partner in 2009 by the U.S. Government Department of Energy. ■

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