



Photo courtesy of Oregon Convention Center

# CONVENTION CENTER'S ROOF HOSTS LARGE SOLAR SYSTEM TO POWER EVENTS OF ALL SIZES

**TWO MEGAWATT SOLAR SYSTEM SUPPLIES A QUARTER  
OF THE FACILITY'S ELECTRICITY**

## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ON DISPLAY

More than just a meeting space, the Oregon Convention Center is a focal point that displays a larger community story to everyone who enters. Part of that story includes engaging in more sustainable business practices. Since 2005, the convention center has worked with Energy Trust to invest in energy projects that have demonstrated significant results are possible in a large public facility.

- Upgraded foodservice equipment and building controls, which slashed an estimated \$331,000 from annual energy costs.
- Made lighting improvements in most of the facility, including swapping original bulbs to LEDs and induction lighting, which reduced annual energy costs by an estimated \$350,000.
- Engaged in Strategic Energy Management to analyze operations and pair capital projects with low and no-cost improvements, strategy that so far has gained an additional \$85,000 in annual energy cost savings.

With its distinctive twin spires defining part of the Portland skyline, the Oregon Convention Center is the largest venue in the Pacific Northwest, drawing events and visitors from around the world. Now the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certified Platinum facility is also drawing energy from the sun to generate approximately 25 percent of its electricity onsite through a large rooftop solar system that started production August 4, 2016. Consistent with the convention center's history of energy-efficiency leadership, the solar array is a capstone project achieved through years of exploring options and developing partnerships. Over the next two decades, it is estimated the system will generate enough clean energy each year to power the equivalent of approximately 184 average Portland homes.

The facility's adaptable and committed team kept identifying ways to reduce its carbon footprint, and the huge expanse of flat rooftop beckoned. It seemed a natural candidate for a large solar system. Metro requested proposals from organizations that had completed other large, rooftop projects. Metro's chosen solar partner, an Energy Trust of Oregon trade ally, installed, owns and operates the system. The system is expected to lower the facility's overall operating costs while offering the clean power advantages of solar energy without a large capital expense.

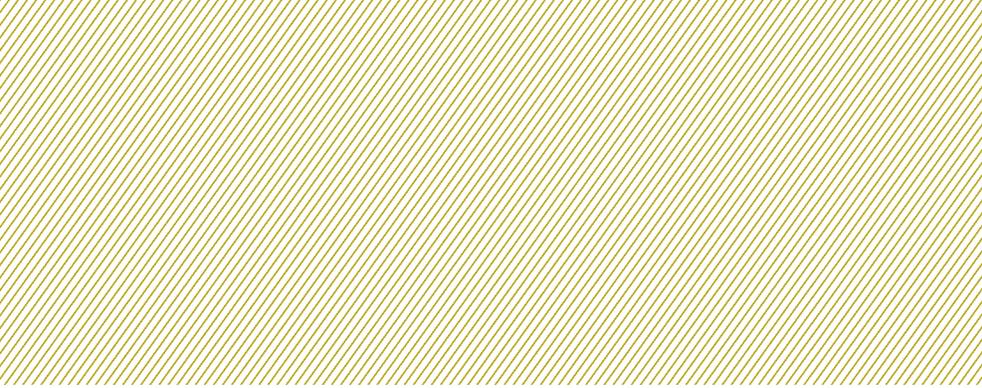


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With a \$200,000 incentive from Energy Trust and a \$500,000 grant from Pacific Power’s Blue Sky<sup>SM</sup> renewable energy program, the convention center was able to increase the size of the solar array from 1.1 to 2 megawatts. “We were enthusiastic to support this large solar project on one of the most expansive urban rooftop spaces in Oregon,” said Dave McClelland, Energy Trust solar program manager. Pacific Power’s regional business manager Cheryl Carter adds, “The convention center demonstrates leadership by embracing renewable energy in an environment where many people can see it at work. Pacific Power and our Blue Sky customers are happy to support a long-time Blue Sky participant in reducing its greenhouse gas footprint through onsite solar.”

### More energy for more of the day

The Convention Center’s solar partner installed a photovoltaic system with a twist. Most solar arrays face south to maximize exposure throughout the day; however, this concentrates most of the electricity generation during the middle of the day when home energy use typically wanes. Alternatively, the array on the Convention Center is oriented both east and west to produce energy during the morning and late afternoon when people are taking showers, using more appliances, and turning on the heat or air conditioning. “The technology employed on the convention center roof adds diversity to the solar already on the grid,” said McClelland. “Its size and design better align with when the energy is needed most, which makes solar an even more attractive resource. This project is an example of how to capture more value from solar energy for the future.”



Get more for your energy. To learn more, visit [www.energytrust.org](http://www.energytrust.org) or call **1.866.368.7878**.



**Sustainability is woven into the fabric of the Oregon Convention Center. We make environmentally friendly decisions because people who live, work and visit here value clean air and water. The installation of over 6,500 solar panels on our roof is a great example. We are now generating approximately 25 percent of our electricity onsite, and we are also generating conversations among the people who walk through our doors.**



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