



Press Release

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Park City Police Facility Drawing on Power of the Sun

PARK CITY, Utah — The Park City Police Force has a new resource at its disposal: the power of the sun. Thanks to support from Rocky Mountain Power’s Blue Sky program the City was able to install 88 American-made solar panels on the Police Facility in August 2012. The 22 kilowatts of solar energy will generate 35,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per year, nearly enough to power four average Utah households. The solar panels complement a wide variety of green measures, such as geothermal heat pumps, that were previously integrated into the facility when it was built in 2007.

The project also received funding from an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) administered by the Utah Office of Energy Development. These funds were part of surplus from the City Hall solar project completed in Park City during 2010. “The price of solar energy has fallen dramatically in recent years” stated Tyler Poulson, Park City’s Environmental Sustainability Manager. “This has allowed the City to stretch its dollars and fund multiple projects with funding that was originally intended for a single installation.”

The Police solar project is the fifth installation completed by Park City Municipal since 2009. Other installations include solar panels on the Creekside Park restrooms, Park City Ice Arena, City Hall, and the Snow Creek Affordable Housing Development. “Park City continues to position itself as a leader in the community, and statewide, on clean energy development and support. The Park City Police project is yet another example of how we’re committed to environmentally and economically responsible operations,” stated Park City Mayor Dana Williams.

In addition to installing solar panels on its own facilities, Park City Municipal is a long-time supporter of the Rocky Mountain Power Blue Sky program. The City purchases 998,400 kWh of renewable energy credits from the program annually, equivalent to 12.75% of its total operations. The program is also actively promoted to households and businesses in the community. Park City residents, businesses, and government currently support renewable energy equivalent to 7.5% of community-wide electricity usage from Green Power programs. This is enough to place Park City 17th nationally in the EPA Green Power Community standings.

Park City residents interested in installing their own solar panels can take advantage of a building permit fee waiver that City Council recently extended through year-end 2013. The incentive, which is available to both homeowners and businesses, waives permit and site inspection fees up to \$1,000 per project. Projects can also take advantage of a 30% federal tax credit and 25% state tax credit for solar installations.

More information on solar projects completed by Park City, including energy generation monitoring for the Police Facility, is available at ParkCity.org (<http://www.parkcity.org/index.aspx?page=738>). Details and sign-up information for the Blue Sky program is available at www.rockymountainpower.net/bluesky.

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