

## Utah city sees 'dramatic' increase in solar installations

The city of St. George, Utah, says it has seen a large upswing recently in the number of solar projects going up in the community.

"The last year has seen a dramatic increase in the number of installations in the city, partly due to state rebate money funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus package," said René Fleming, the utility's conservation coordinator.



**The city of St. George owns a 250-kW solar project called SunSmart PV Facility, above.** Photo courtesy of St. George Energy Services Department

The municipal electric utility adopted a net metering program in 2005 to encourage its residential and business customers to install solar photovoltaic panels.

"With the state and federal tax credits, state rebates and the rebates offered by the St. George Energy Services Department, approximately 30 kW in residential capacity and 525 kW in commercial capacity have been added to the system," said Fleming.

This amount, combined with the 114 kW of capacity that existed previously at customer sites, plus the 250-kW SunSmart PV Facility owned by the city, brings St. George's total solar PV capacity to 919 kW, just under its goal of one megawatt. —*JEANNINE ANDERSON*

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