

Solar Parking Structures

Securing reliable, cost effective energy sources is a priority of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA). In the fall of 2011, VTA in partnership with Joint Venture Silicon Valley and a Power Purchasing Agreement with SunPower and Wells Fargo Bank, installed elevated solar parking structures at its three bus maintenance divisions.

The parking structures use a total of 5,070 SunPower E19/425 high-efficiency solar panels, which in addition to providing 2.1 megawatts (MW) of clean energy, also offer shade and protection for VTA vehicles. Two of the solar installations are located at the VTA's San Jose facilities, including a 548-kilowatt (kW) system at its Chaboya Division and a 969-kW system at its Cerone Division. The third installation is a 637-kW system at the VTA's North Division facility in Mountain View.

The clean electricity provided from these solar panel systems will offset VTA's three bus maintenance divisions' electricity demand and save \$2.7 million in electricity costs over the next 20 years.

The solar panels will help cut California's atmospheric pollution by reducing carbon dioxide levels by an estimated 2,000 metric tons each year, which is equivalent to removing more than 9,000 cars from California's roads or planting 10,000 acres of trees over the next 20 years.



Employees park under the solar canopies at VTA's Chaboya Maintenance Division, 2240 South 7th Street in San Jose.



Buses utilize parking for shade and weather protection underneath the solar canopies at VTA's North Maintenance Division, 1235 La Avenida Street in Mountain View.

VTA is committed to creating a greener Santa Clara Valley through its Sustainability Program. The program seeks to meet today's needs without compromising future generations. VTA's Sustainability Program strengthens the agency's commitment to the environment through the conservation of natural resources, the reduction of greenhouse gases, the prevention of pollution and the use of renewable energy and materials.

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For more information on VTA's Sustainability Program, visit our website at www.vta.org/projects/programs/sustainability_program or contact VTA at (408) 321-7575, TTY (408) 321-2330. Find us on Facebook under "SCVTA", Twitter under "SantaclaraVTA", and YouTube at www.youtube.com/scvta.



Shade and weather protection are provided for buses at VTA's Cerone Maintenance Division, 3990 Zanker Road in San Jose.



VTA Mission: *VTA provides sustainable, accessible, community-focused transportation options that are innovative, environmentally responsible, and promote the vitality of our region.*