



TUSD ranked #1 nationwide in EPA Green Power Partnership for K-12 Schools

<https://www.epa.gov/greenpower/green-power-partnership-top-30-k-12-schools-0>

More about the project:

- LARGEST SCHOOL-SITED DISTRIBUTED SOLAR PROJECT WITHOUT LOCAL / UTILITY INCENTIVES IN THE US TO DATE.
- LARGEST SINGLE-PHASE DISTRIBUTED SOLAR PROJECT IN ARIZONA BY MW AND NUMBER OF SITES / SYSTEMS.
- FIRST PROJECT IN TEP TERRITORY NOT TO REQUIRE UTILITY INCENTIVES.
- TUSD TO RETAIN OWNERSHIP OF RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS ASSOCIATED WITH CLEAN ENERGY PRODUCTION.

TUCSON, Ariz. (Oct. 15, 2018) — Midstate Energy/Urban Energy Solutions, Veregy Companies, Constellation, and Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) today announced the completion of a 23.8-megawatt (DC) solar generation project. The project — the largest of its kind among K-12 school districts in Arizona to date — is expected to account for 47 percent of TUSD's annual electricity use.

"I am very proud of the District's commitment over the last five years to install the solar arrays at our schools and facilities. They not only produce energy to run our schools while reducing our carbon footprint, they also provide wonderful shaded areas for our playgrounds and parking areas," said Dr. Gabriel Trujillo, TUSD Superintendent.

Located on shade canopies across 82 school campuses and support facilities, the solar arrays are expected to produce 41.6 million kilowatt hours of electricity and

prevent the release of nearly 31,000 metric tons of carbon emissions annually. The avoided emissions have the same benefit to the environment as taking more than 6,600 cars off the road, according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates.

The project required no upfront capital from TUSD, which will purchase the electricity generated by the more than 73,000 photovoltaic panels through 20-year solar services agreements with Constellation.

“Constellation is committed to increasing access to clean energy solutions,” said Brendon Quinlivan, executive director, Distributed Energy Origination for Constellation. “We congratulate TUSD on leading a growing list of K-12 school customers who are choosing to support renewable solar generation projects while managing energy costs.”

The project was completed in three phases over five years in collaboration with TUSD, Constellation, and developer Midstate Energy/Urban Energy Solutions. Each phase and individual solar project site was designed to maximize cost savings while also providing shade for several parking areas and playgrounds.

“Our team is grateful for the opportunity to develop these utility cost-savings projects for TUSD while also empowering the District’s environmental initiatives,” said John Mitman, director, Engineering and Development for Midstate Energy/Urban Energy Solutions. “TUSD has earned the right to be proud of its environmental stewardship through supporting these solar energy projects.”

TUSD and Constellation will celebrate the project’s completion with a ribbon cutting ceremony at Dietz K-8 School, Oct. 17, in Tucson. Following the celebration, Constellation will lead Dietz students in hands-on solar experiments designed to demonstrate how solar generation works and showcase the benefits of renewable energy.

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