

SOLAR PROJECT

Almeric L. Christian Federal Building and Courthouse St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands



OVERVIEW

Helios Energy, in partnership with Schneider Electric, implemented a 497-kW ground mount solar PV system. The installation was part of an agency-wide initiative to expand energy efficiency and clean energy production measures at sites within the U.S.V.I.

CHALLENGE

Design a value-engineered ground-mount solution for the GSA.

Need 1: Meet hurricane wind standards of 180 mph for all solutions, the first system to do so in the USVI

Need 2: Meet megawatt-hour production goals

Need 3: Removal and rebuild of a previously failed system and integration with existing active loads with minimal interruption

Need 4: Complete installation during the COVID-19 pandemic when global supply chain issues and labor shortages presented unique, unprecedented challenges

SCOPE OF PROJECT

Size of Project: 497 kW DC ground mount solar PV

Annual Energy Produced: 687 MWh/year (design) although initial yields are 8% above target

Panels Used: LG Chem 395W high uplift strength, mono-silicon modules

Inverters: 8 x 60kW Yaskawa Solectria string inverters

Application: Supply the daytime energy load for Federal Courthouse buildings on the property, while offsetting the greenhouse gas emissions achieving "net Zero" energy

Time to Build: 9 months, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the global supply chain, and transportation crisis



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The Helios Energy™ Impact

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) was seeking to substantially reduce energy consumption and add clean, solar energy production for the Almeric L. Christian Federal Building and Courthouse, government properties located in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. Key to the success of this initiative was a value-engineered 497 kW DC system, comprised of ground-mount solar PV, engineered and constructed by the Helios Energy Team in partnership with Schneider Electric. Further, the successful execution of this project during the COVID-19 pandemic, historic global supply shortages, and unprecedented global transportation crisis exemplified Helios' ability to creatively find solutions to substantial challenges. Despite these challenges, Helios and our key construction partners, Eleven Construction and ATEC BVI, commissioned a solar PV system that is exceeding energy production goals.



The Helios Energy™ Advantage

When exploring partners to design, build, and employ the 497kW DC solar system, Schneider Electric sought out previous partners with experience in the Caribbean. Further, with a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) and tenured solar PV expertise, a partnership with Helios Energy became the logical next step. The Helios Energy Team is grateful to be delivering the solar PV solution to the deserving St. Croix community. Helios is also proud to have partnered with local Virgin Island subcontractor and to have injected over 90% of the labor budget back into the local economy while creating clean energy jobs.



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ABOUT THE U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA)

GSA provides workplaces by constructing, managing, and preserving government buildings and by leasing and managing commercial real estate. GSA's acquisition solutions offer private sector professional services, equipment, supplies, and IT to government organizations and the military. GSA also promotes management best practices and efficient government operations through the development of governmentwide policies.

We provide centralized procurement for the Federal Government, offering billions of dollars' worth of products, services, and facilities that federal agencies need to serve the public. Our acquisition solutions supply federal purchasers with cost-effective, high-quality products and services from commercial vendors. We help federal agencies build and acquire office space, products, and other workspace services, and we oversee the preservation of historic federal properties. Our policies covering travel, property, and management practices promote efficient government operations.



ABOUT OUR PARTNER: SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC

At Schneider, we provide energy and automation digital solutions for efficiency and sustainability. We combine world leading energy technologies, real-time automation, software, and services into integrated solutions for Homes, Buildings, Data Centers, Infrastructure and Industries. We are committed to unleash the infinite possibilities of an open, global, innovative community that is passionate with our Meaningful Purpose, Inclusive and Empowered values. We are the most local of global companies; our unmatched proximity to you, enables us to better understand, anticipate and adapt with agility to support your business continuity with high ethical standards in everything we do.



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