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Argand Powers new Charlotte Building with Sunshine



8.4 kW PV Installation: Optima Engineering, Charlotte, NC – October 2008

Optima Engineering chose Argand for one of the first and largest commercial photovoltaic (PV) and solar thermal installations in the City of Charlotte, NC. Located on the roof of their new LEED office building in Charlotte's South End, Phase I of the PV project consists of 39 Sharp 216 modules which feed DC power to two Sunny Boy 5000 Inverters. Electricity produced by the system will be sold into the NC GreenPower program. Optima expects payback within 7-8 years. The Sharp solar modules are projected to have a normal service life of from 25-30 years. The solar thermal portion of the project will provide 80-100% of the building's hot water needs and is powered by an evacuated tube Apricus AP 30 mated to an 80 gallon storage tank.

Keith Pehl, LEED accredited electrical engineer and CEO of Optima said, "Optima Engineering is a leading advocate for renewable energy, and while we had the opportunity for a new office, we decided to put our money where our mouth is and install a PV system. The system is sized, at maximum solar output, to be able to provide the power for all of the personal computers, servers, and lighting in the new office. The shell building that Optima Engineering is moving into has a solar thermal water heater for the core and shell, and we felt that it was the perfect opportunity to install a PV system on the roof as well, and be able to show clients what it looks like, as well as have the actual experience of installing such a system, and see just how easy it can be."

"As more and more commercial installations install renewable energy systems, the cost will decrease, and the understanding and acceptance will increase in the community. We encourage all business to begin thinking about renewable energy!"

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