809 University Avenue, Los Gatos, CA 95032
408-883-7000 www.cinnamon.energy

Who Said Old Buildings Can't Be Super Energy Efficient?

Cinnamon Energy Systems Completes Largest Commercial Rooftop Solar Installation in Los Gatos

Los Gatos, CA – Immediately after signing a ten-year lease for a circa-1950s building owned by the Los Gatos Saratoga Union School District, Cinnamon Energy Systems (CES) began the work to make its headquarters a showcase for energy efficiency and low operating costs.

With the support of the School District, CES undertook a top-to-bottom renovation of the building, including installation of:

- Five rooftop heat pump HVAC units to replace old gas/electric heating/cooling systems
- All new LED lighting and ceiling tiles to replace primitive fluorescent and incandescent lighting
- Two Level 2 electric vehicle chargers for the company's growing EV fleet
- A prototype commercial battery-backup system for essential lighting, communications and security systems
- A 50-kilowatt rooftop solar system composed of 92 high efficiency solar panels and Enphase IQ8 Commercial Microinverters.

"I like to say we should 'Raise Building Energy Efficiency' instead of just 'Razing the Building'," said Barry Cinnamon, CEO of Cinnamon Energy Systems. "With today's inexpensive solar, batteries, heat pumps and LED lighting, getting to net zero energy is surprisingly fast and affordable. All you need is enough roof space for a large solar array – space which is almost always available on traditional single-story flat roof commercial buildings."

CES' rooftop solar installation at 809 University Avenue was key to getting to net zero energy – which basically means that a building generates as much energy onsite as it consumes annually. The combination of the energy generated by the rooftop solar system -- with reduced energy consumption from heat pumps and LED lighting -- is greater than the building's historic electricity and gas consumption. Financial savings are accentuated by PG&E's Net Metering rules, in which the system is allowed to sell power back at 95% of the retail price of power for 20 years – or until 2045.

This 50-kilowatt rooftop solar system:

- Is powered by Enphase three-phase, U.S.-produced IQ8P-3P Commercial Microinverters
- Utilizes 92 Longhi 545 watt bi-facial solar panels
- Uses an IronRidge low-tilt racking system

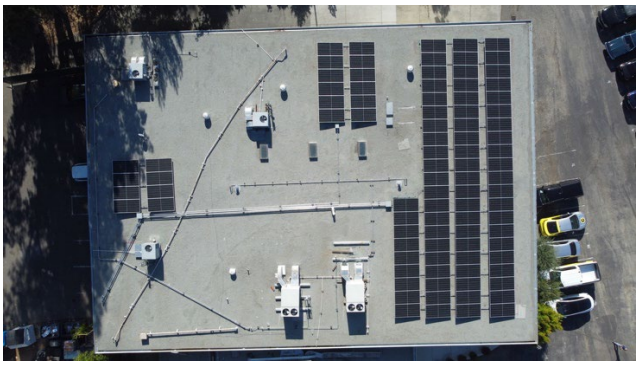
- Will generate 65,400 kwh per year
- Will save $26,000 per year at current electric rates or $68/day (which continue to increase at 8-10% per year)
- Will eliminate 30 to 35 metric tons of CO2 per year

“I have no doubt that almost every residential and commercial building with a sunny roof in Silicon Valley will eventually be powered by a rooftop solar and battery system. With continued electricity price increases from PG&E coupled with steady reductions in solar panel and battery costs, the economics for producing your own power keep getting better and better,” said Cinnamon.

For more about the Net Zero improvements made to CES’s headquarters at 809 University Avenue, contact Gary Mull or Barry Cinnamon

About Cinnamon Energy Systems and Barry Cinnamon
Located at 809 University Avenue in Los Gatos, California, Cinnamon Energy Systems (CES) is a one-stop shop for home electrification, including solar, batteries, heat pumps and electrical upgrade services throughout the Silicon Valley area. CES’ Service Department provides solar and battery system support to homeowners -- whether they purchased their systems from CES or another company. CES is a licensed California C-46 Solar, C-10 Electrical, C-20 HVAC and B General contractor.

Barry Cinnamon, their CEO, started his solar career at MIT, where he earned a BS Degree in Mechanical Engineering, and then followed that up with an MBA from Wharton. He is a NABCEP Emeritus solar installer, California Solar and Storage Association President Emeritus, and former SEIA Board Member. Previously he was the founder and CEO of Akeena/Westinghouse Solar, where his team developed the first commercialized AC solar module. In his spare time Barry hosts the weekly Energy Show podcast, still climbs up and down ladders regularly, and works as a farm hand in his wife’s backyard garden.

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