

News for Facilities Managers

Rooftop Solar: Safe, Affordable, Hassle-Free

Schools, public institutions, and non-profit organizations considering solar energy commonly ask what impact solar panels have on long-term building maintenance, roof warranties, and infrastructure upkeep costs. Fortunately, the answer contains all good news: not only is solar equipment perfectly safe for your roof, it actually protects existing resources. Because of this, solar installations reduce building maintenance requirements and associated costs.

All Panels, No Holes | Rooftop solar arrays do not require puncturing, drilling, or in any way breaching a roof membrane. Ballasted racking installations sit on top of on white TPO and black EPDM membrane roofs and are capable of withstanding hurricane force winds. Industry-leading S-5! roof clamps provide a mounting system on standing seam roofs. Both systems allow for flexible access to the roof under the panels, and panels can be easily removed at the customer’s request when roof access is required.

Maintain All Existing Roof Warranties | Knowledgeable solar developers understand the importance of maintaining the integrity of a roof when installing a solar array. They guarantee against roof damage during the installation and ensure that the system will not impact or void the customer’s existing roof warranties.

Extended Roof Life & No Panel Maintenance | Rooftop solar arrays lower long-term facilities costs by extending the life of a roof. Solar arrays serve as a physical barrier between the roof and the natural elements, helping mitigate damage to the roof from ultraviolet (UV) radiation as well as rain, hail, and other weather. Additionally, the solar panels are owned, guaranteed, and maintained by Secure Futures, so hosts incur no maintenance costs for the panels.

Generate Power During Peak Demand Periods | Large institutions usually experience peak electricity demand costs on hot days when the most air conditioning is required. The “billable demand” charges of electricity bills assign a higher rate for this energy, and this significantly increases the institution’s overall utility costs. Fortunately, solar energy production is at its greatest when cooling is most needed and demand charges are set for the year. This magnifies the cost savings for the host.

Reduce Costs by Cooling, Shading, and Ventilation | A recent study by researchers at UC San Diego showed that a building’s ceiling was five degrees (°F) cooler when the roof was shaded by solar panels compared to a roof exposed to direct sunlight. Thus, rooftop solar arrays reduce demand for cooling by providing both shade and ventilation under the panels.

For More Information | Additional information can always be obtained from info@RVASolarFund.org. Fact sheets on *Budget Impacts and Benefits*, *Grant Funding for Sustainability Initiatives*, and *Why Go Solar* are also available.

Rooftop Solar Benefits

- No holes in the roof
- Maintain the roof warranty
- Extend the life of the roof
- No panel maintenance costs
- Cut peak demand utility costs
- Shade and cool public buildings