

# *Solar Powered, Spirit Driven!*

**Bridges**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Special Advertisement | June 10, 2011



Photo: Vicki Thompson

**CITY NATIONAL BANK**  
The way up.®

 **SOLAR  
TECHNOLOGIES**



## A letter from John Benza



**John Benza** is the resource ministries director of Bridges Community Church and Los Altos Christian Schools in Los Altos, CA.

This is an exciting time for Bridges Community Church. On May 20, Sun-Logic Solar completed the installation of our solar power system which now enables us to generate nearly 85 percent of our own electricity. Our system is the largest of its kind in Los Altos and we are thankful to have worked with two exceptional partners, SunLogic Solar and City National Bank, to bring this project to fruition.

Solar power represents a significant milestone to the legacy of Bridges Community Church and to the community at large. We are now generating clean, renewable energy and reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Our system will produce enough energy to power 30 homes a year. We are teaching our children about alternative energy and conserving our natural resources now for generations to come. Lastly, solar is an investment in the church's future that is expected to exceed \$1 million in savings over the next 25 years.

## Solar

&

## QA

### **Q) How does solar work?**

A) When sunlight hits a solar panel it creates a photovoltaic (PV) effect that loosens electrons and sends DC power to an inverter. The inverter converts the DC power to AC power that can be used by the home. Any excess electricity produced will be sent back to the grid, literally spinning the electric meter backwards and earning a credit from the utility company.

### **Q) Do I need batteries or a generator?**

A) No, with grid-tied solar systems, the utility grid acts like a giant battery. During the day, any excess electricity produced by the system is sent back to the grid for a credit. After dark, when energy usage exceeds production, power is pulled from the grid like normal.

### **Q) What happens on a cloudy day?**

A) Systems will continue to produce power, but they are most productive with direct sunlight during peak hours.

### **Q) How long will a solar system last?**

A) Solar power systems are extremely reliable and are expected to produce electricity for 30+ years. Most solar panels come with a 25-year warranty direct from the manufacturer.

### **Q) Can I really save 45% with rebates and tax credits?**

A) Yes! The California Solar Initiative (CSI) state rebate and Federal Investment Tax Credit currently cover 45% of the cost of a solar system. The CSI is a temporary incentive program administered by the California Energy Commission (CEC) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) that pays a cash rebate based on the size of the system. The CSI rebate decreases as more people take advantage of the savings. The Federal Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008 also provides a tax credit equal to 30% of the system's gross cost, with no cap.





# Clean Savings.

City National can help save you money when you decide to lease a solar power system for your business. Low-rate lease payments, combined with lowered electricity bills, typically cost less than your current monthly energy bill – so savings may start as soon as the system is installed.

**Easy Green.** We'll help identify the tax credits, incentives, and rebate programs your business qualifies for – and work with your solar vendor to file the required paperwork. Then we'll craft a payment structure to optimize the benefits of those subsidies.

Available for businesses or nonprofits, City National's solar power leases:

- Fully incorporate Federal Renewable Energy Grants
- Provide financing from construction through lease termination
- Allow purchase after lease termination at a defined amount

**Experience the Difference.** Contact Christopher Kerz at (925) 906-5049 today. Green power can put more green in your pocket.



City National Business Banking

[cnb.com](http://cnb.com) Member FDIC





**Pictured left to right:**

Jeff Parr,  
SunLogic Solar

John Benza,  
Bridges Community Church

Christopher Kerz,  
City National Bank

Mark Jacobi,  
SunLogic Solar

# The power of partnership

Photo: Vicki Thompson

**Three parties representing very different industries** recently formed an innovative partnership that defines sustainability from an economic and environmental standpoint. Bridges Community Church (BCC) is a nonprofit church and school in Los Altos that looked to the sky to reduce its utility bills that exceed \$65,000 annually. SunLogic Solar of Walnut Creek provided the technical expertise for BCC to cost-effectively harvest sunshine. And City National Bank, specialists in helping nonprofits to finance solar projects, presented attractive lease-to-own financing terms based in part on renewable energy grants.

The organization expects real savings to exceed \$1.3 million over the 25-year solar equipment warranty.

As owner of the solar equipment, City National Bank is eligible for the federal 1603 Energy Grant when it leases the system to a nonprofit using a lease structure prescribed by the Treasury Department. A City National Bank spokesperson explains that the bank is then able to pass the grant benefits back to the nonprofit in the form of lower lease payments, when approved.

Although BCC previously considered solar power, it was the combination of technology improvements, installation aesthetics, and financial incentives over the past decade that made a compelling justification for moving forward at this time. "With the ever increasing cost of energy and the increased technological advances in solar photovoltaic panel manufacturing techniques, the timing seemed right to reevaluate the return on investment [for solar power]," says John Benza, resource ministries director at Bridges Community Church. In just five months, BCC's solar project went from the inquiry stage to financing to filing for permits from the City of Los Altos, all of which SunLogic Solar helped BCC navigate.

As a full-service solar provider, SunLogic Solar does more than install solar power systems. The company helps home and business owners analyze their electricity needs, design a system that maximizes financial savings, and recover costs through rebates, tax credits and incentives tied to renewable energy such as the California Solar Initiative (CSI). "We understand that solar investment needs to make financial sense for people, whether it's for their home or their business. While the environmental benefits of solar power are very important, we bring reliable savings and protection from rate hikes to the consumer," says Jeff Parr, principal and founding partner at SunLogic Solar.

With SunLogic's assistance, BCC is eligible for more than \$200,000 in cash payments over the next five years from the CSI program. CSI is just one of various renewable energy initiatives currently available for residential and commercial solar projects. Some local municipalities and utility companies, including Silicon Valley Power, offer their own rebate programs. Another boon for solar investment is fixing the cost of electricity for the next 25 years at today's rate.

"Between church and school operations, we consume a lot of energy for our classrooms, heating and cooling, and computer resources. Solar energy allows us to displace those costs," Benza says. Energy savings for BCC over the next decade will cover the cost of the lease agreement with City National Bank. Beyond that, the agreement is cash-flow positive for the balance of the term. The organization expects real savings to exceed \$1.3 million over the 25-year solar panel equipment warranty.

BCC's system, the largest of its kind in Los Altos, will generate more than 85 percent of their electrical requirements. The 210-kilowatt solar installation includes (973) 215-watt panels and 22 DC to AC power inverters placed on six buildings around the campus.





# SunLogic Solar helps home and business owners go solar

**L**ONG THE DARLING of environmentalists, solar power today is an important player in the bottom line of households and businesses across the country. With a wave of government incentives and rebates and advances in solar technology, solar energy in the United States has never been more affordable.

SunLogic Solar, a full-service solar provider based in Walnut Creek, is a leading expert in residential and commercial solar installations and financing. According to Jeff Parr, a founding principal at SunLogic, federal and state incentives can offset up to 60 percent of the cost of a solar power system. Among the financial incentives that Parr speaks of are a 30 percent federal tax credit for solar installations and significant cash rebates from the California Solar Initiative program. Depreciation incentives, property tax exclusions, and utility company rebates are other renewable energy incentives that SunLogic helps clients explore.

"We respect the green benefits of solar energy, but we also realize that it needs to make financial sense for people to move forward. We help with that process," says Parr.

In addition to financial rewards, advances in solar technology are putting money back in the pockets

of consumers simply through improved equipment performance and efficiencies.

SunLogic works only with the industry's top solar panel manufacturers, meaning that each project installation is backed by a 25-year product performance warranty. SunLogic pairs the equipment guarantee with a pledge of its own: cost-free system maintenance and monitoring support for 10 years.

When people choose SunLogic, they're choosing a partner. The company works closely with home and business owners through every step of the project, beginning with a detailed site evaluation at no cost that analyzes savings potential and power generation and use. The process continues with custom system design, affordable financing options, permitting and inspection, and expert installation. SunLogic's consultants and installers are trained to the highest industry standards — just one of the reasons why SunLogic was recently named among the top 30 solar installation companies in California.

Contact SunLogic Solar at 877-786-5644 or visit [www.sunlogicsolar.com](http://www.sunlogicsolar.com) to see if solar power is right for your home or business.



# Solar power energizes academic program at Los Altos Christian Schools

**S**olar energy is poised to electrify the Los Altos Christian Schools (LACS) curriculum starting as soon as the 2011/2012 school year. The private Christian school, serving approximately 300 students from preschool through 8th grade, is an integral ministry of the nonprofit Bridges Community Church (BCC) in Los Altos. BCC recently completed the largest solar energy installation project in the city and aims to bring the system into the classroom.

"The students are excited and proud that their school is "going green." They have watched the panels being placed on their school buildings and have taken this opportunity to discuss ways to take care of their planet," explains LACS Principal Susan Goff. "We've already had discussions in several classes about the solar power generation process. We are proud to be one of the early adopters of this technology."



Photo: Vicki Thompson

The solar power system features an educational dashboard accessible through the web and interactive kiosk displays that allow teachers and students to monitor, measure and learn about the solar power system in real time.

Just as BCC's solar power installation supports one of the school's driving principles to help students develop critical thinking skills, the system also provides direct economic support to LACS. The system is expected to save BCC over \$1 million in energy costs over the next 25 years. "As with most nonprofits, any reduction in operating costs results in funding available for program purposes," says BCC Re-

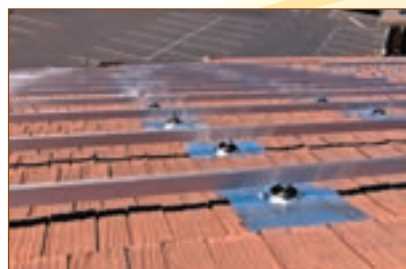
source Ministries Director John Benza. "At Los Altos Christian Schools, we achieve our high accredited ratings by continually investing in curriculum, teachers and classroom technology."

## The nuts and bolts of a solar installation

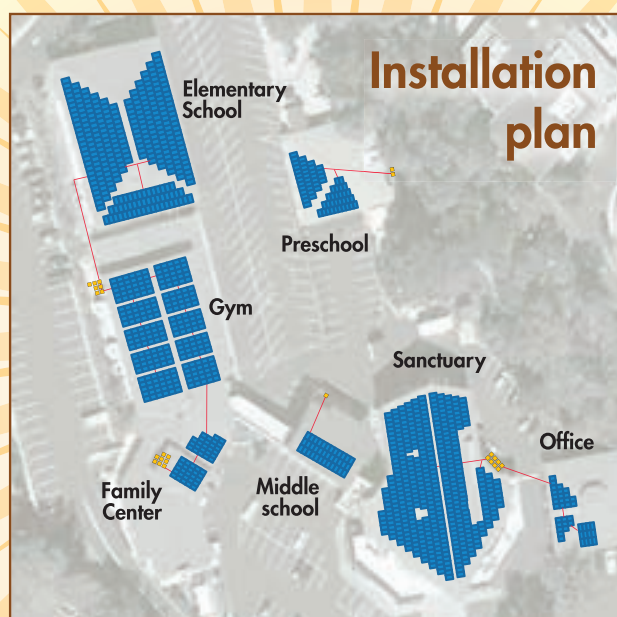
Here is a brief look at the solar installation process at Bridges Community Church. The 973-panel installation took about two months to complete.



1) Mounting bolts and watertight flashing are attached to roof structure



2) Support rails for the solar panels are attached to the mounting bolts.



3) An installer lays wiring to connect the panels to the inverters.



6) The completed rooftop installation is now ready to generate power.



5) Inverters convert direct current (DC) from the panels into alternating current (AC) and pass back to the Smart Meter from PG&E.



4) Solar panels are positioned and connected to the wiring harness.

Photos: Alice Butterick/Studio B Pictures