



Los Alamitos Unified School District

Solar Initiative

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the scope of the solar project the District is undertaking?

The Los Alamitos Unified School District has entered into a 30-year Power Purchase Agreement with PFMG Solar to buy electricity at a fixed rate at 10 sites. This solar project is estimated to save the District approximately \$16 million over the 30-year contract.

What is the cost to the District?

The District has no upfront cost or capital investment for the solar system. Third party ownership of the system allows the District to realize immediate savings and budget more effectively because of predictable future energy costs.

What is the project?

Solar panels will be installed on campuses in parking lots and open space. Solar shade structures in parking lots will provide shaded parking spots for faculty, students, and the community. Elevated solar structures provide shaded areas for students to gather and play. Moreover, the community will benefit from a reduction of more than 3,360 tons of carbon dioxide annually.



SCHOOL

- District Office*
- Hopkinson Elementary School*
- Lee Elementary School*
- Los Alamitos Elementary School*
- Los Alamitos High School*
- McAuliffe Middle School*
- McGaugh Elementary School*

TYPE OF INSTALLATION

- Parking Canopy*
- Elevated Structure*
- Elevated Structure*
- Parking Canopy*
- Parking Canopy*
- Elevated Structure & Parking Canopy*
- Elevated Structure & Parking Canopy*



SCHOOL

Oak Middle School
Rossmoor Elementary School
Weaver Elementary School

TYPE OF INSTALLATION

Elevated Structure & Parking Canopy
Elevated Structure
Elevated Structure

What percentage of the District's anticipated electric consumption will be provided by the solar systems?

The systems are designed to provide solar power for 75% of the historical consumption of the sites where they are built district wide. This allows for maximum savings for the District by offsetting the highest Southern California Edison (SCE) rates and also providing a cushion for potential reductions in use.

What is the estimated timeline?

Design and permitting is scheduled through Q2 2021. Construction will commence in Q3 2021 and is expected to be completed in Q2 2022.

How does solar energy work?

During the day, sunlight hits photovoltaic (PV) panels and is converted into electricity for the District to use at each campus. When the system produces more power during sun light hours than is needed, the utility meter spins backwards, accumulating credits with Southern California Edison (SCE). Excess energy is sent back into the grid and consumed by the local community. Net metering allows excess generation in any given month to be carried over to the next billing month, typically for up to one year. Any power required at night will be drawn from SCE and all campuses will remain connected to the power grid.

Will there be an interruption of power at the schools or neighborhood?

No. The schools will remain on the SCE power grid and will be receiving a portion of their electricity from SCE at reduced rates due to the solar installation and the time of use at each campus. There is not any anticipated interruption or impact on neighbor power usage.

What type of disruptions will there be to the neighborhood?

We expect minimal disruptions to the community. Construction, for the most part, will be done at times least intrusive to the schools and neighborhoods and with minimal traffic and sound pollution. There will be a traffic flow plan for each campus and frequent communications about changes to normal flow patterns.



Are there any safety concerns for the campuses or the community?

All solar structures have been approved by the Division of State Architects (DSA) which is required for all construction on public school campuses in the state of California. DSA code requirements for schools are more stringent than residential and commercial buildings. All electrical components conform to DSA, state and local electrical codes and standards. The structures are structural steel firmly grounded in cement. Building codes and OSHA standards will be strictly enforced for the safety of students, staff and the surrounding community. To further ensure security and safety, heavy construction will be behind construction barricades. During non-construction hours, equipment and building supplies will be stored behind locked fencing.

What is the construction schedule?

The schedule takes into consideration campus activities and other construction projects that are already scheduled or anticipated. Each school will be given a detailed schedule and regular communications will be established.

What can the community expect during and after the completion of the solar project?

This extensive project involves construction that will be done relatively quickly, and every effort will be made to maximize the safety and security of students, staff and the surrounding community. The community's patience and tolerance will be appreciated. At this time of budget tightening statewide, Los Alamitos Unified School District will save millions of dollars in electricity costs that can be put into essential school services.

The District and PFMG Solar will host a series of community outreach meeting where members of the public can come and learn more about the planned solar installations.

How are the systems being maintained, repaired and cleaned?

The cost of equipment maintenance and repair, including module cleaning, is included in the cost of the energy to the District. PFMG Solar monitors the systems on 15-minute increments to ensure they are performing and operational at all times. A service and maintenance team is deployed to fix any deficiencies and also perform cleaning and preventative maintenance to our system is producing the most power possible.

It is important to PFMG Solar that the District and the larger community are pleased with the final product and enjoy seeing the benefits of solar power realized in their schools and neighborhoods.