

Mar Vista High School



Mar Vista high school is one of the largest schools in the Sweetwater District with 164 employees and 2,200 students in grades 9–12. The two swimming pools on campus are the only ones in the district and allow the school to offer extra-curricular activities, such as water polo and competitive swimming.

SUMMARY

Customer:
Mar Vista High School

Project:
Solar Hot Water System

Projected Energy Savings:
18,612 therms

Actual Energy Savings:
23,500 therms (Jan. to Sept.)

Actual Projected Annual Cost Savings:
\$25,000 annually

Incentive:
\$18,612

Payback:
1.5 years

“ Science has shown us that alternative sources of energy are our future. As a public school district, we feel the use of renewable energy, such as Mar Vista’s solar heating system, sets an appropriate example for others to follow, and saves our natural resources.”
– Jim Clark
Utilities Manager
Sweetwater Union High School District

▼ Issues

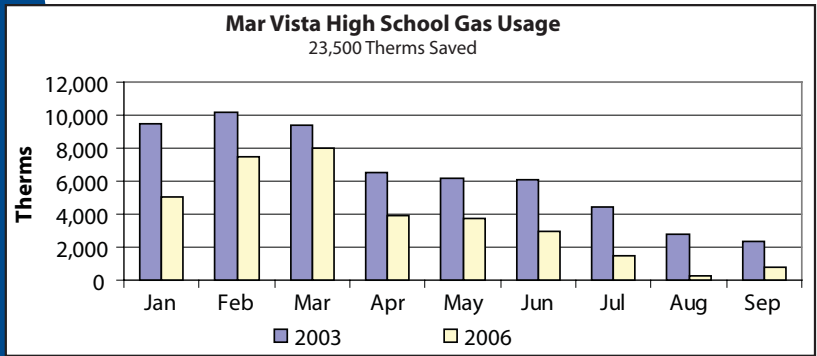
Increasing utility bills caused by rising natural gas prices prompted the district’s Energy Conservation department to ask SDREO and Innovative Energy Services, Inc. for assistance in identifying energy efficiency opportunities.

▼ Solution

As part of an overall assessment of the district buildings conducted by IES and the district’s Energy Conservation department, several areas in need of improvement were identified. The largest savings opportunity identified was from the installation of a solar water heating system for the two pools (267,000 gallons total).

▼ Results

The district used a low-interest municipal lease (3.598%) and incentives from SDG&E’s Standard Performance Contract program to finance the energy conservation project. At a total cost of \$55,000, the solar system will save the high school more than \$25,000 per year and with



the SDG&E incentive (\$18,612), the overall simple payback for the project was reduced to only 1.5 years. Also, the energy saved from not running the 2 million BTU/hr boiler correlates to a reduction in CO₂ greenhouse gas emissions of more than 220,000 lbs. per year.



The San Diego Regional Energy Office is currently managing over \$58 million in funds under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Substantial incentives are available for qualified self-generation and energy efficiency projects that include wind, solar, fuel cell, microturbine or conventional cogeneration technologies. Contact us for more information.



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