

Case Study:

Independent School Districts in Texas



Presidio Independent School District



Summary

Presidio Independent School District (ISD) is a public school district in Presidio, TX. The ISD has 3 campuses that serve Presidio, Candelaria, Chinati, and Ruidosa, TX. Presidio ISD has become a leader in solar energy production in West Texas. The district saw the value in investing in renewable energy and is reaping the educational, environmental, and economic benefits. While undergoing budget cuts from the state, Presidio ISD turned to the abundance of West Texas sunshine as a way to enhance the district's value and provide a long term return on investment. Presidio ISD applied for several grants to retrofit district buildings with solar and in 2011 the first solar modules were installed. "Solar PV is our goal," says Dennis McEntire, the Superintendent for Presidio ISD. Presidio ISD aims to continue adding solar to help minimize infrastructure costs while maintaining a higher percentage of school dollars applied to direct student services.

Quick Facts

Location

Presidio, TX

Facilities Participating

Presidio High School
Presidio Elementary
District Offices
District Technology Center

PV Capacity

150 kWh

Average Annual Production

307,440 kWh

PV Location

Ground mount
Rooftop

Project Installation

First modules — 2011
Fully installed— 2014

Cost

\$500,000

PV Funding

Partial ISD budget and
partial grants (40/60)



Photos courtesy of Dennis McEntire, Superintendent, Presidio ISD

Funding

In 2010, Presidio ISD received a grant of \$250,000 from the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) to install 72 kW rooftop array at the elementary school. The grant required that the district match 20% of the project costs. Presidio ISD also received \$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), secured by Ciro D. Rodriguez, the U.S. Congressman for the 23rd Congressional District, who is an active voice for solar power in the region.

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Additional Green Features

Presidio ISD has passive solar water heater systems at the Franco Middle School and Presidio High School campuses. Additionally, ISD buildings have high efficiency foam insulation, high efficiency occupancy controlled lighting, motion controlled sinks and toilets, LED walking lights for community use in the evenings, a student run recycling program, and participates in a cardboard bailer program as a fundraiser. Presidio ISD also participates in the Solar Car Challenge, a program that motivates students in science and engineering and helps educate and increase alternative energy awareness. For more information about Presidio High School's Solar Car Team, visit: www.solarcarchallenge.org/teams2016/Presidio.

Why Did Presidio ISD Adopt Solar?

- ◇ Solar reduces energy use and cost
- ◇ Solar is a renewable energy source that helps to protect ecosystems and conserve natural resources
- ◇ Solar energy production helps the district meet their strategic goals
- ◇ Solar installations are a long term investment
- ◇ Solar energy production enhances the value of the school district

The North Central Texas Council of Governments recommends to have an energy audit done by the State Energy Conservation Office to establish where solar might fit into overall energy efficiency improvements and energy saving potential. For more information on the SECO Technical Assistance Program, please visit: <http://seco.cpa.state.tx.us/energy-reporting/gov-assist.php/>

The North Central Texas Council of Governments is working under contract with the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) to expand best management practices for solar photovoltaic systems throughout the State of Texas. For more information about solar in Texas, please visit: www.GoSolarTexas.org.