



Water Pollution Control Agency Reduces Energy Use

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Water Pollution Control Agency Reduces Energy Use Kera Abraham

Energy efficiency is a work in progress. That's a lesson the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency appears to have taken to heart.

Two and a half years ago, [the agency had a 1.1-megawatt solar array installed at its wastewater treatment facility](#) in Salinas. Under the arrangement, called a [power purchase agreement](#), the agency buys power from Solar City at 30-percent below market rate until 2030, when it may buy the array outright.

But the solar panels didn't reduce MRWPCA's peak energy demand as much as officials had hoped. So the agency used a cloud-based platform to measure and fine-tune its systems for additional energy savings.

The wonky version: "Candi Control's...machine-to-machine communications integrated low-cost, off-the-shelf commercial meters and controls purchased by the agency and installed by local personnel," according to the press release from PR firm Blue Practice Inc. "Candi provides a secure, web-standard platform for real-time data acquisition and control of virtually any networked device."

Typical savings from a demand management system, according to the company, are about 10-15 percent of the monthly electric bill.

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Solar City The 1.1-MW solar array at MRWPCA's Salinas Valley Reclamation Facility.