

Introduction

Like many councils today, Queensland's Barcoo Shire Council set environmental goals in order to become a more sustainable council and identified solar energy as a key component of its environmental strategy. The council believed it had a key role to play in informing the community about climate change and recognised that solar power was an effective and highly visible way to get the message across – while reducing their own carbon footprint in the process.

Opportunity

Ingenero's Solar Challenge, which aims to have 20 councils generating their own renewable energy by 2010, provided the perfect opportunity to launch the Barcoo Shire Council's commitment to sustainability. The council took up Ingenero's free feasibility assessment and found that utilising their unique Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) was an economical way to make the switch from diesel-generated energy to solar power.

Solution

Under the PPA model the council is able to house the solar installations at their facilities and generate electricity without purchasing the solar generation system outright. They simply pay for the power that is generated onsite and used. The package included the installation of a 34 kW system at the Jundah Sports Centre and a 2 kW system at the Jundah Administration Centre. Both these systems were completed by Ingenero in August 2009. Over the expected 20 year lifetime of the two systems, approximately 894 tonnes of CO₂ gas emissions will be saved.

Included in the installation was Ingenero's web based performance monitoring systems, EcoWatt. This state-of-the-art, web-based monitoring system allows Barcoo Shire Council to access the performance of the solar generation units in real time and from anywhere in the world. EcoWatt will also aid the council in teaching its community, staff and stakeholders about its sustainability commitment.



Outcome

Barcoo Shire Council has been extremely pleased with the solution provided by Ingenero, which allowed them to make the switch to solar generation with ease.

Shire CEO Michael Parker said, "We are generating clean, 100% renewable solar power with these flagship installations at the Jundah Administration Centre and the Jundah Sports Centre. Ingenero is helping us achieve our environmental goals with no capital costs, no risk of ownership with the system and no maintenance or repair issues or expenses."



For more information on how an Ingenero system can help your council reach its sustainability goals, contact Ingenero on 07 3371 1666 or visit www.ingenero.com.au.