

## Phoenix's solar history

by [Sadie Jo Smokey](#) - Jul. 22, 2011 04:42 PM  
The Arizona Republic

Solar as an alternative-energy source began in Phoenix in the 1990s. Solar projects funded by federal stimulus money are increasing the city's solar power production capacity.

The city generates nearly 1 megawatt of energy from 20 locations, enough to power about 250 homes at once while the panels are in direct sunshine. By the end of 2012, the city's goal is 12 megawatts.

### Central Avenue transit canopies

In 1990-91, solar-powered shade canopies were constructed at 17 bus stops along Central Avenue for security and night lighting. Combined 1.5 kilowatt of power.

### North Mountain Park

In 1991, two solar-powered security lights were installed in remote areas of the park. In 2007, a 3.15-kW roof-mounted system was installed on the park's visitor center to offset utility-purchased power for the site.

### 40th Street and Pecos Road park and ride

In 2004, the city partnered with Salt River Project to install a 100-kW canopy-mounted system.

### Camp Colley

In 2006, the city installed a 8.45-kW off-grid system for the camp, approximately 50 miles north of Payson.

### Pecos Community Center

In 2007, the city and SRP partnered to install a 30-kW system to offset utility-purchased power for the site.

### Phoenix Convention Center-West building

In 2008, the city partnered with Arizona Public Service to install 732 solar panels on the roof, generating 100 kW of power.

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