

CARRIER CLINIC GOES SOLAR

2010 was a hallmark year for the Carrier Clinic, a non-profit behavioral healthcare facility that straddles Montgomery and Hillsborough Townships in Somerset County. It was the Clinic's 100th year at its present location, and its first full year of using renewable electricity generated by an on-site 14-acre array of photo-voltaic (PV) panels. Since the ribbon cutting in late 2009, a 1.8 megawatt ground-mounted system has generated a portion of the electricity used by the Clinic, without fossil fuels and without producing any greenhouse gases. The installation was the largest one of its kind on a hospital or psychiatric facility in New Jersey.

Carrier entered into a power purchase agreement with EDF Energies Nouvelles Company (EnXco). The agreement provides for EnXco, a private corporation, to install, own and maintain the panels, and to sell the electricity they generate to the Clinic at a 20% discount. The arrangement works to the advantage of both parties because EnXco, as owner of the solar array, can benefit from tax breaks and other economic incentives that Carrier, as a non-profit, cannot. Carrier benefits by being able to purchase the renewably produced electricity at a reduced cost. EnXco pays off the system and installation through sale of Solar Renewable Energy Credits.

<http://www.carrierclinic.org/facility.php>