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MEDIA ALERT

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Oshman JCC Rooftop Solar System---3rd largest in Palo Alto--Ribbon-Cutting TODAY



The ribbon is cut!



Mayor Shepherd congratulates JCC



Preschoolers prepare to sing at event



West-facing view of rooftop panels



Rabbi Kleinberg blesses system, flanked by JCC CEO Zach Bodner & THINKnrg's Zach Rubin



East-facing view of rooftop panels



Palo Alto Utilities' Debra Katz and Christen Creed teach JCC preschoolers how solar panels create electricity to operate a TV



Palo Alto-- Preschool children sang and the sun shone brightly as the community gathered this morning to herald the operational launch of a new 395.5 kilowatt (almost half a megawatt) commercial solar system array, sitting atop the roofs of the Oshman Jewish Community Center (JCC) buildings.

It takes a village! This solar system was raised thanks to a partnership between the JCC, investor-coordinators THINKnrg and the City of Palo Alto Utilities and Development Departments. Palo Alto Mayor Nancy Shepherd was on hand to congratulate the JCC on this significant contribution to the greening of Palo Alto, noting that in the future such systems will be the norm. The new solar system also got a theological thumbs-up from Rabbi Darren Kleinberg who gave his blessing, noting that Jewish tradition has honored the sustaining power of the sun for over 4,000 years.

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So how big is this new solar system? VERY BIG! Here are some relevant stats:

- There are 1,840 solar panels
- Spread across the roofs of twelve JCC buildings
- The system is expected to generate 616, 920 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity per year.
- That's enough electricity to provide roughly 20% of the JCC's needs
- That amount of electricity would power 100 homes per year
- The solar system was financed through a power purchase agreement, so there were no upfront costs for the JCC and they can anticipate saving \$1.5 million over the next 20 years.

The JCC system is the 3rd largest solar energy generator in Palo Alto, right behind the systems at VMWare and HP. With 600 residential and commercial solar systems installed to date, Palo Alto ranks 7th nationwide for the highest number of solar systems installed per utility customer. These systems combined have a capacity of 4 megawatts, enough to run all the refrigerators in Palo Alto for a year!

With Earth Day coming up next month, Utilities is hoping other residents and businesses will be inspired to consider solar options. Our goal is get local solar generation up to 23 megawatts by 2023!

Photos above are from the ribbon-cutting event and a presentation by Utilities staff to the preschoolers explaining how the solar system on their roof converts sunlight into electricity, travels along wires to their outlet plug and then operates things like lights and TVs. (Higher resolution photos available on request.)

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