

2007-07-27

United Natural Foods Employs Solar Power in Rocklin, California Facility

Installation of 1.19 Megawatt Solar Power System by American Capital Energy Expected to Provide 1.5 Megawatt Hours Annually of Clean Energy Production
Press Release from
Dayville, CT

Extending its commitment to Environmentally Responsible Initiatives, United Natural Foods, Inc. (Nasdaq: UNFI - News; the "Company") today announced plans to install a 1.19 megawatt solar power system that will cover 175,000 square feet of rooftop at the Company's 487,000 square foot distribution facility in Rocklin, CA. To develop and install the new solar power system, the Company contracted with American Capital Energy, a Massachusetts-based firm specializing in solar power project integration.

Construction of the Rocklin solar power project began in July 2007, with the power-generating panels expected to be in operation by the end of summer of 2007. The Rocklin solar power system will utilize more than 7,000 Sharp 170 solar modules, two SatCon 500 kW inverters and the Unirac S-5 mounting system for a non-penetrating and low-profile installation.

When completed, the solar power system is expected to provide an average of approximately 1,500,000 kWh annually of clean energy production at this facility, which is the equivalent of powering 140 average American households for a year, and is expected to reduce CO2 emissions by 19 metric tons annually. According to industry statistics, the solar power system is believed to be the fourth largest solar array in California and the sixth largest in the United States.

Michael Funk, President and Chief Executive Officer, commented, "This solar power system is yet another example of United Natural Foods' commitment to Environmentally Responsible Initiatives. Further, it is especially gratifying to work towards protecting the environment while at the same time improving our infrastructure to enhance efficiencies and lower costs. It's truly a win-win situation where everyone benefits."

The Rocklin facility is the headquarters for UNFI's Western Region; employs approximately 550 people; serves customers in northern California, northern Nevada, southern Oregon, and Hawaii; and is the largest facility in Company's nationwide distribution network. United Natural Foods has the largest warehouse capacity of any distributor in the natural products industry and, with the recently announced plans to open a facility in Sarasota, Florida, it will have more than 3.7 million square feet of space at 16 distribution centers nationwide.

Focus on a Greener Environment

"United Natural Foods remains committed to a greener environment by investing in technology that will allow us to operate more competitively while utilizing clean, renewable energy," said Thomas A. Dziki, United Natural Foods Vice President of Sustainable Development. "We continue to explore ways to reduce the environmental impacts associated with conventional electricity use in keeping with the natural charter of our business."

"We are proud to partner with United Natural Foods in driving their solar initiative and look forward to working with them in building momentum behind the solid business case for solar energy implementation," said Tom Hunton, president of American Capital Energy. "Going solar currently provides companies a real competitive advantage, which will only increase as the cost for energy continues to escalate."

Project Consistent with United Natural Foods Commitment to Reduce Greenhouse Gases

United Natural Foods has an ongoing commitment to Environmentally Responsible Initiatives. As part of these efforts, in February 2007, the Company announced its participation in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) SmartWay Transport Partnership, a voluntary collaboration between the EPA and companies with truck fleets designed to increase energy efficiency while significantly reducing greenhouse gases and air pollution. United Natural Foods' fuel saving strategies reduced over 14,200 metric tons of CO₂ emissions from its Eastern Region fleet from 2005 to 2006. It accomplished this by directing its drivers to reduce excessive engine idling and through the increased use of low-friction lubricants.

Summary of the Solar Power Generation System	
Installation site:	Roof of the Rocklin, CA distribution center
Annual clean energy production:	1.5 megawatt hours
Global warming prevention effects:	Expected to reduce CO ₂ emissions by 19 metric tons annually

About American Capital Energy, Inc.

American Capital Energy provides full-service solar energy project integration and installation for large commercial enterprises. The company is committed to furthering the utilization of solar energy by America's most forward thinking companies by offering customized turnkey solar systems designed for long term performance and verifiable return on investment. American Capital Energy is run by solar project professionals with decades of combined experience in project development and deep knowledge in the solar industry. Company president Tom Hunton will be addressing the International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses (IARW) Assembly of Committees in Washington, DC on July 31st at 8:30 AM ET. For more information, please visit www.americancapitalenergy.com.

About United Natural Foods

United Natural Foods, Inc. carries and distributes more than 40,000 products to more than 18,000 customers nationwide. The Company serves a wide variety of retail formats including conventional supermarket chains, natural product superstores, independent retail operators and the food service channel. United Natural Foods, Inc. was ranked by Forbes in 2005 as one of the "Best Managed Companies in America," ranked by Fortune in 2006 and 2007 as one of its "Most Admired Companies," and ranked by Business Ethics as one of its "100 Best Corporate Citizens for 2006." For more information on United Natural Foods please visit www.unfi.com.

"Safe Harbor" Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995: Statements in this press release regarding the Company's business that are not historical facts are "forward-looking statements" that involve risks and uncertainties. For a discussion of such risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements, including but not limited to general business conditions, the impact of competition and our dependence on principal customers, see "Risk Factors" in the Company's quarterly report on Form 10-Q filed with the Commission on June 7, 2007, and its other filings under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Any forward-looking statements are made pursuant to the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and, as such, speak only as of the date made. The Company is not undertaking to update any information in the foregoing reports until the effective date of its future reports required by applicable laws. Any projections of future results of operations should not be construed in any manner as a guarantee that such results will in fact occur. These projections are subject to change and could differ materially from final reported results. The Company may from time to time update these publicly announced projections, but it is not obligated to do so.

For Further Information

- [American Capital Energy](http://www.americancapitalenergy.com)

The information on this page was created and posted by the company identified above. RenewableEnergyAccess.com does not endorse, edit, or substantiate this information and assumes no obligation for this content's accuracy.

null



Copyright © 1999-2008 RenewableEnergyAccess.com

All rights reserved.