Hallsburg ISD School Solar Energy System – Fact Sheet

- The solar project consists of two separate solar energy systems with a total energy generating capability of 67.83 kWdc.
- The project utilizes 266 American-made solar panels manufactured by SolarWorld.
- The solar panels produce direct current (DC) electricity, the amount of which varies throughout each day and by season depending on the availability of sunlight.
- Two inverters convert the DC electricity to alternating current (AC) electricity for use within the school buildings for air conditioning, lighting, computers and other electric loads.
- The systems are expected to produce about 85,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity each year, enough to meet the annual electricity needs of more than 7 average Texas homes. At current electricity rates, the systems are expected to save the school at least $3,500 annually in electricity costs.
- No utility, state, or federal rebates or subsidies were applied to this project. The solar project was funded by LS Power, parent company of the nearby Sandy Creek Energy Center, as part of a settlement with the Sierra Club and Public Citizen.
- Most of the solar electricity generated is expected to be used by electrical loads within the school buildings at the time it is generated. However, some energy generated by the solar panels is expected to be fed back into Navasota Valley Electric Cooperative's (NVEC's) distribution system for use by other customers when school electric loads are small, such as on weekends or during the summer. This back fed electricity is credited against Hallsburg ISD's consumption.
- The school conducted a competitive bid process and received 10 proposals from local, state and national solar vendors. Texas contractor Meridian Solar, along with its team consisting of several Waco-area subcontractors, was selected in this process and contracted with the school to perform the system design and installation.
- As a part of the new gym construction project, Holtek Solar of Waco added 56 – 280 watt LG modules to the system increasing the total capacity by 5.68kWdc. Estimated kilowatt hour production = 22,000/yr.