Case Study:
Independent School Districts in Texas

Presidio Independent School District

Summary
Presidio Independent School District (ISD) is a public school district in Presidio, TX. The ISD has 3 campuses that serve Presidio, Candelaria, China-ti, and Ruidosa, TX. Presidio ISD has become a leader in solar energy production in West Texas. The district saw the value in investing in renewable energy and is reaping the educational, environmental, and economic benefits. While undergoing budget cuts from the state, Presidio ISD turned to the abundance of West Texas sunshine as a way to enhance the district’s value and provide a long term return on investment. Presidio ISD applied for several grants to retrofit district buildings with solar and in 2011 the first solar modules were installed. “Solar PV is our goal,” says Dennis McEntire, the Superintendent for Presidio ISD. Presidio ISD aims to continue adding solar to help minimize infrastructure costs while maintaining a higher percentage of school dollars applied to direct student services.

Quick Facts
Location
Presidio, TX

Facilities Participating
Presidio High School
Presidio Elementary
District Offices
District Technology Center

PV Capacity
150 kWh

Average Annual Production
307,440 kWh

PV Location
Ground mount
Rooftop

Project Installation
First modules — 2011
Fully installed— 2014

Cost
$500,000

PV Funding
Partial ISD budget and partial grants (40/60)

Funding
In 2010, Presidio ISD received a grant of $250,000 from the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) to install 72 kW rooftop array at the elementary school. The grant required that the district match 20% of the project costs. Presidio ISD also received $500,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), secured by Ciro D. Rodriguez, the U.S. Congressman for the 23rd Congressional District, who is an active voice for solar power in the region.
Additional Green Features
Presidio ISD has passive solar water heater systems at the Franco Middle School and Presidio High School campuses. Additionally, ISD buildings have high efficiency foam insulation, high efficiency occupancy controlled lighting, motion controlled sinks and toilets, LED walking lights for community use in the evenings, a student run recycling program, and participates in a cardboard bailer program as a fundraiser. Presidio ISD also participates in the Solar Car Challenge, a program that motivates students in science and engineering and helps educate and increase alternative energy awareness. For more information about Presidio High School’s Solar Car Team, visit: www.solarcarchallenge.org/teams2016/Presidio.

Why Did Presidio ISD Adopt Solar?
◊ Solar reduces energy use and cost
◊ Solar is a renewable energy source that helps to protect ecosystems and conserve natural resources
◊ Solar energy production helps the district meet their strategic goals
◊ Solar installations are a long term investment
◊ Solar energy production enhances the value of the school district