

Pediatric Surgical Center Builds a Healthier, Solar-Powered Future for Austin Kids

SUNPOWER®



Challenge

With 24/7 operations and state-of-the-art equipment, Strictly Pediatrics was looking for a way to strategically manage their high energy needs while promoting a healthy environment in the community.

SunPower's Solution

The team at Freedom Solar, a SunPower Commercial dealer, designed and installed a solar rooftop and carport system that complemented the building's contemporary design. Nearly 2,500 SunPower® solar panels blanket the top floor of the parking garage and the roof, producing one of the largest rooftop solar arrays in Central Texas.

Customer Benefit

The roughly 800 kW system offsets an estimated 50% of Strictly Pediatrics' electricity usage, while providing much needed shade for their patients. Over the next 25 years, the surgical center is expected to save \$2.6 million in electricity costs and avoid approximately 21,466 metric tons of CO₂ from being released into the atmosphere.

Quick Facts



812.3 kW
Total System Size



Carport and Rooftop
Installation Types



\$2.6 million
Estimated 25-year Savings



50%
Estimated Electricity Offset

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Mark Smith, MD

Founder and Board Member, Strictly Pediatrics

Sheltering Patients from the Sun with Solar Carports

The first thing you notice when you walk through the doors of Strictly Pediatrics in Austin, Texas, is that it doesn't feel like a hospital. Brightly colored walls and animal artwork put patients at ease, which is important in a surgical center that caters to children.

When young patients and families come to Strictly Pediatrics today, they might notice something else different: Parking spaces that used to bake in the hot Texas sun are now sheltered by a giant canopy of solar panels.



Like most medical facilities with 24/7 operations, Strictly Pediatrics requires a large, dependable supply of electricity to keep things running smoothly. Freedom Solar helped them address their energy demands by designing a low-profile solar photovoltaic (PV) system that complements the building's contemporary design, while providing enough clean energy to meet nearly 50% of the center's electricity needs.

At nearly 2,500 SunPower® panels, the Strictly Pediatrics solar system spans both the top floor of the parking garage and the roof of their building. It's expected to generate 1.2 million kilowatt hours of clean electricity every year—all without noise, pollution or radiation. And while the system is touted as one of the largest in Central Texas, a significant portion of it remains invisible from the street below, as it's ballasted on the flat roof of the building.

Clean Energy Savings for the Next 40 Years

One of the key reasons Strictly Pediatrics chose to go solar with SunPower is the manufacturer's industry-leading technology. SunPower panels deliver the highest efficiency rates available on the market.¹ And the resulting system is

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built to last—featuring a 25-year Complete Confidence Panel Warranty and an expected useful life of 40 years or more.²

“We have been looking for innovative ways to strategically manage our energy and help the environment,” said Mark Smith, MD, founder and board member of Strictly Pediatrics. “As healthcare professionals, we strive to promote good health and a healthy environment in the community. We’re thrilled with the addition of alternative energy to our facility, we couldn’t be happier with Freedom Solar Power’s work and service on this project from start through completion.”



Healthy Air, Healthy Kids

In the lobby of Strictly Pediatrics, a solar monitoring system displays the real-time energy and environmental savings produced by the system—a nice educational tool and a welcome distraction for children with surgery on their minds.

Over the next 25 years, Strictly Pediatrics’ solar system is expected to avoid producing approximately 21,466 metric tons of CO₂ from being released into the atmosphere—equivalent to taking 4,600 passenger cars off the road for one year or recycling 6,812 tons of waste.

“The combined health, environmental and financial benefits of solar made it a great investment in the future,” said Dr. Smith. And for a healthcare center that tends to tomorrow’s leaders, that future looks bright indeed.

SunPower Corporation

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¹ Based on search of datasheet values from websites of top 10 manufacturers per IHS, as of January 2018.

² SunPower Module 40-Year Useful Life,” SunPower white paper. 2013. Useful life is 99 out of 100 panels operating at more than 70% of rated power.”